





Democratic Unionists claim Mowlam let slip eavesdropping information □ Blair to press Sinn Fein on backing for Ulster peace deal

# Loyalists accused in bugging row

Rory Carroll

**T**HE Democratic Unionist Party was accused yesterday of trying to destabilise today's crucial meeting between Tony Blair and Sinn Féin by claiming that the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr Mowlam, had alerted the republican party to an undercover bugging operation.

The allegation unnerved republicans already struggling to calm supporters after the loyalist murder of a Catholic student and the attempted bombing of a bar.

The Prime Minister, who is

expected to press Sinn Féin to stop delaying over whether to urge a 'yes' vote in next month's referendum, may have to answer questions over the DUP allegation.

The party said Mr Mowlam, accidentally tipped off Sinn Féin during Stormont talks that a Belfast house frequented by its negotiator, Gerry Kelly, was bugged.

She alleged to information which could only have been gleaned from eavesdropping on the house, said Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the DUP.

Mr Robinson claimed that his information had been leaked by security sources furious that a three-year opera-

tion had been uncovered. A Northern Ireland Office spokesman said: "It is not worthy of comment. It is ridiculous to suggest ministers would ever jeopardise security."

After an uncharacteristic delay, Sinn Féin confirmed that several weeks ago a number of listening devices were removed after the "accidental" discovery of a bug beneath the floorboards.

Previously, Sinn Féin has courted publicity after such discoveries. A spokesman said the party had not gone public so as to give Mr Kelly time to compile a dossier on the incident.

The spokesman rubbished

Mr Robinson's claim that Sinn Féin avoided publicity so as not to damage its relationship with the Government.

Today's Downing Street meeting comes at a crucial time when republicans are pressing for immediate troop withdrawals and the Government is pressing for a commitment to back a 'yes' vote in the May 22 referendum.

Republicans dithering over whether to support the deal will watch whether Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness claim any concessions on troops.

And Unionists, suspicious that the deal is a sell-out, will watch whether Mr Blair and

Dr Mowlam risk irking Sinn Féin by breaching the question of decommissioning weapons.

The meeting will be overshadowed by Saturday's sectarian murder in Crumlin, Co Antrim, of Claran Heffron, aged 22, who was shot in the head on his way home from a Friday night in the pub.

Mr Heffron lived with his seriously-ill mother. He was a university student who worked part-time at Belfast International Airport a few miles from Crumlin.

No organisation claimed responsibility but police are questioning two men.

David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist Party

blamed the Loyalist Volunteer Force, which is opposed to the peace deal. "Another great blow for Ulster? — No, I don't think so," he said.

The LVP was also suspected of murdering a Catholic council worker four days earlier. Security forces warned that there will be more attacks from fringe loyalists and republicans.

Martin McGuinness urged nationalists to remain calm but tension rose after a bomb attack on a Catholic-owned bar and restaurant, also blamed on loyalists.

A device containing up to two pounds of commercial explosives was used in the attack on Saturday night

which inflicted slight damage and panicked around two dozen customers at Steptoe's, in Killmore, Co Armagh. John Hume's Social Democratic and Labour Party will today try to ease the trepidation by launching its 'yes' campaign.

The Government is providing funding to all parties including the 'no' campaigns of the DUP and the UK Unionist Party.

At the request of Sinn Féin and the Labour Party, South Africa's African National Congress will send a delegation, led by former secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa, to Belfast and Dublin to help foster peace.



Mo Mowlam — Denials she alerted Sinn Féin

## Mother turns to protest



Mother-of-three Janne Weir and her husband Robert: 'In 40 minutes we did not get one straight answer from Paddy Ashdown' PHOTOGRAPH: SUSANNAH BENNEY

## Straw pledges action on paedophiles

**T**ighter controls promised as riot over child killer is condemned

Michael White  
Political Editor

**T**HE Home Secretary, Jack Straw, yesterday flagged up plans to keep dangerous paedophile offenders behind bars indefinitely, but condemned the "disgraceful behaviour" of people who rioted in Bristol over released child killer Sidney Cooke.

In an attempt to defuse public concern over the highly-publicised release of offenders like Cooke, the Home Secretary emphasised that ministers intend to obtain greater control over them.

"It is vital that people do not take the law into their own hands," Mr Straw stressed on a weekend when the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, was also criticised in his Yeovil constituency, near Bristol, and stood up to what he called "lynch mobs".

Mr Straw said the proposed Sex Offenders Order will become part of the Crime and Disorder Act which reaches

its Commons committee stage tomorrow. The order gives the police power to stop offenders acting in ways which could threaten children, such as loitering near playgrounds.

"Someone like Sidney Cooke, who is on the Sex Offenders Register anyway, could be subject to one of these Sex Offender Orders and that would lay down controls over him," Mr Straw said on BBC's Breakfast with Frost.

Extended supervision orders for those sentenced in the future — which do not apply to past offenders like Cooke — are also planned.

The Home Secretary confirmed that measures may be on the way to keep dangerous criminals behind bars indefinitely, though such a proposal could fall foul of civil liberty lobbyists and the European Convention on Human Rights.

As a holding measure he signalled the Government's intention to look at "the idea of indeterminate sentences for those who are dangerous like Cooke but who are not within the mental health system".

The Department of Health is already examining the risks to the public of releasing violent schizophrenics, unsupervised, from hospital into the community.

Mr Straw was uncompromising about the "petrol

bombs and thuggery" over Cooke outside a Bristol police station. "I understand the concern people have about paedophiles. But there is no excuse for this kind of disgraceful behaviour, particularly where it's directed against the police who... are there to protect the community from paedophiles," he wrote in the Mail on Sunday.

He revealed police fears that vigilante activity will simply drive paedophiles undercover, making their supervision still harder.

Organisers of the protests in Yeovil are planning to link up with other anti-paedophile campaigns around the country in an effort to maintain the momentum they believe has been built up by their demonstrations.

Following their stormy meeting with Mr Ashdown, the protesters complained that politicians did not appear to understand the strength of feeling on the issue and urged the Government to speed up new measures to protect the public from convicted paedophiles.

Parents stormed out of the meeting with Mr Ashdown on Saturday after he appealed for calm and warned the protests were hindering attempts to resolve the question of long-term residence for Cooke.

**Demonstrators warn MPs: Get a move on and pass new laws**

Geoffrey Gibbs

**J**ANNE Weir, a mother of three who works with special needs children, is not, by nature, a typical protester. But she is one of the hundreds of people accused by politicians of doing more harm than good by demonstrating outside Yeovil police station.

"We have achieved a lot in a week. It is out in the open which is where it should be instead of behind closed doors and it has kept reminding our politicians of the strength of public feeling," Mrs Weir said yesterday.

"They don't seem to see the same urgency. Our message to them is listen to what the people are saying... stop sitting back and get a move on with passing these laws."

Parents had been "exceedingly disappointed" with local MP Paddy Ashdown's response at the weekend to their concerns. "He knew what he was going to say and when that did not appear to

have the right effect he appeared to lose it. In 40 minutes we did not get one straight answer from him. I just hope that people don't have short memories when it comes to the election."

She said the protests had been sparked off because people learned Cooke was in Yeovil and nobody knew what it entailed.

Nobody had tried to dispel suggestions that he would be held in the town's Summerlands Hospital and she fully understood why some parents had decided to withhold their children from the neighbouring Westfield Infants School.

"He is a very dangerous paedophile. Our children's freedom has been suppressed greatly over the years... We all try to educate our children without scaring them, but when you are told you have got someone like that coming into the community you are going to do anything in your power to protect your children."

"As far as we know there will not be any more organised public demonstrations, but what we would like to do now is link up with other campaigns."

"There are lots of little voices in lots of areas around the country. If we can get a big voice things might move a bit quicker."

## Iran 'holding Briton on spying charges'

Julian Borger in Tehran and Ian Black

**A** BRITON is being held by the Iranian security services on charges of spying after he was arrested on the Iran-Iraq border, apparently posing as a BBC journalist, a Tehran newspaper reported yesterday.

The Al-Jomhuri Islami daily named the arrested man as Robert Gavin, and referred to him as a senior member of MI6. The report said he had been questioned for the past week and had confessed to spying for British intelligence after being arrested in a military zone in the frontier province of Kurdistan, a mountainous region used as a supply route by Iraqi Kurdish rebels.

The Foreign Office said last night that the British embassy in Tehran hoped to get more information from their Iranian counterparts today but it is understood that the man in question is not an intelligence agent.

Iran is a top priority for all arms of British intelligence. The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, revealed only last week that efforts by MI6 and GCHQ, the government's eavesdropping centre, had helped frustrate Iranian attempts to procure nuclear components in the UK.

According to the Iranian report, Mr Gavin had claimed to be working for the BBC but had only a tourist visa. A BBC spokesman denied he was known to them.

The report comes at a deli-

cate time for relations with Iran. Diplomatic ties are being tentatively restored after the election to president last year of a moderate cleric, Mohammad Khatami.

"The policy of general political and economic isolation may be counter-productive," said Mr Cook earlier this year. In February the European Union under the British presidency lifted a ban on high-level contacts with Iranian officials, in marked contrast to the United States' continued policy of isolation. The ban had been imposed last April after a German court ruled that Iran's leaders had

**'With a tourist visa, he entered military zones posing as a BBC reporter'**

ordered the 1992 assassination of three Kurdish dissidents in a Berlin restaurant. Al-Jomhuri Islami — a newspaper close to conservative elements in Iran's government — said Mr Gavin had been arrested while filming in restricted areas.

"Holding a tourist visa, he entered military zones posing as a BBC reporter, and photographed and filmed military sites without a permit," said the report. It also quoted Arab diplomats in Tehran as saying Mr Gavin had filmed sensitive military sites in neighbouring Arab countries and shown the films on BBC television.

An Iranian government official said a man called Robert Gavin had applied for a journalist visa last year but the request had been turned down for reasons the official could not reveal.

A more senior government source said: "He could be some sort of freelancer trying to impress his bosses. But no real journalist would be in a military region like that. There is something not right about this."

The official source said he thought it unlikely that the newspaper would have published such a detailed report without some form of confirmation from Iran's security services.

Relations between Britain and Iran, bad since the 1979 revolution and still overshadowed by the fatwa threatening Salman Rushdie, have periodically worsened because of mutual accusations of espionage.

In 1994 Britain expelled a diplomat from the Iranian embassy after he was discovered distributing forged documents on Western policy in Bosnia.

That followed angry exchanges over British charges that Iranian intelligence had been in contact with the IRA. Tehran denied the charge and claimed that Britain had been hugging its embassy in London.

And last year Iran falsely accused the British chargé d'affaires in Tehran at that time of being a spy. There were suggestions that the charge was a product of mischief-making by hardliners.

## Narcoleptic trance rock promises fast promotion

Review

Garth Cartwright

The Dandy Warhols  
LA2, London

**R**OCK music loves its clichés about the hard road to the top. Yet for every Pulp (10 years before the slightest sniff of success) there is an Oasis (instant megastardom). And for every Drugstore there is a Dandy Warhols.

When Drugstore opened the show at LA2, you could sense the frustration. In the mid-nineties the music press hailed them as the band most likely to succeed. Instead, record company problems rendered the band most invisible. With a new album, *White Magic* for Lovers, finally out, they are desperately trying to escape rock's third division.

Playing competent if unimaginative indie pop, Drugstore's secret weapon is their extrovert singer, Isabel Montoro. Her big, breathless voice and loud presence hold attention,

but the songs never rise above average and they only move the crowd when Brazilian-born Montoro teases the audience about England's World Cup chances. What's needed, she suggests, is a miracle. But that's also what it will take for Drugstore to enter the premier league.

The Dandy Warhols were formed in an Oregon basement by four Anglophiles. They too were acclaimed as the next big thing when their independently released debut *Dandys Rule OK* came out in 1996. Signed to Parlophone, they embraced a lavish rock lifestyle before even a whiff of stardom came their way.

A spanking from the record company, eager to readjust them and a move to London appear to have restored some sense of perspective. But the music press still love them for their pop star swagger, druggie references and propensity for playing encores and

Friday night found the Dandys more than competent live. Muscular keyboardist Zia McCabe threatened to punch anyone who attempted to stage-dive.

Dividing the set between lush, droning psychedelic rock and jangly guitar pop, they paraded a pale, sullen quality normally reserved for resident Britpop stars. At their best on slow, meandering numbers, the four-piece band demonstrated a musical ability well removed from your average indie outfit.

Their current top 30 single, *Not If You Were The Last Junkie On Earth*, has garnered them a lot of attention, not least because the video features dancing hypodermics. Racing through it on stage, they appeared savagely cynical, the sound and look suggesting that more than a few illicit chemicals had been consumed. (Their current album, by the way, is called *Come Down*.) Being Americans, they find rock, not pop, infinitely more comfortable.

Having got the hit out of the way halfway through the set, they returned to their narcoleptic trance rock.

Expect promotion to stardom soon, with accompanying tales of burn-out and rehab.

**Station slated**

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## An established attraction



'They don't do red nightclubs any more. Sometimes when I am here on my own I can hear the laugh of Diana Dors'

Gerard Simi (above)



Backstage at the Revuebar... Girls relaxing before another striptease extravaganza in the Scarlet Show Bar and (right) a dancer from the age of innocence



MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

# Soho's erotic pioneer still teasing at 40

Dan Glaister on the striptease joint that sought a touch of class

IT PAVED the way for erotic entertainment in post-war Britain, aiming to bring a touch of glamour to Soho. Now, as it celebrates its 40th birthday, the Raymond Revuebar has assumed the status of one of the grand old men of the area. It is so much part of the establishment that its distinctive neon sign is preserved at the insistence of Westminster Council.

"That sign is not a pretty sign," says Gerard Simi, the owner, who bought the Raymond Revuebar from the founder last year after working as chief choreographer for 15 years. "But it is a landmark, an icon. It is as famous as Piccadilly Circus. You can even buy postcards of it."

After 40 years of stereotypical men in mags, young lads, and now groups of tourists and couples — gay and

straight — Mr Simi is determined to hang on to the club's unique decor.

"I want to keep it as it is," he says, sitting in the red-flocked glory of the Scarlet Show Bar. "They don't do red nightclubs any more. Sometimes when I am here on my own I can hear the laugh of Diana Dors. It's a cliché, but I can."

The main auditorium, which holds an audience of 220 for the club's twice-nightly striptease extravaganza, is dominated by an equally extravagant chandelier. "Where else can you see a chandelier like that in an auditorium?" Mr Simi asks. "Maybe at the Royal Opera House. And you see this?" He stops before a huge brass wall relief that hides within it a light. "This is horrendous, but I must keep it."

Although in terms of inte-



The Beatles with Paul Raymond (centre) in 1967

rior design it may be stuck in the late 1960s, in other ways the Revuebar is keeping up with the times. "The Raymond Revuebar has changed over the years. What we are trying to do is reinvent striptease. Striptease got lost in

year the theatre would be dark after 11.30 — and introduced men into the acts.

"I wanted to broaden the audience, I wanted to do a show for everybody. Mostly it's a girlie show for men, but I wanted something for the wives as well. If we have a party of Russian tourists here, I don't think they should have to leave their wives at home because there's nothing for them. I'm not really catering for the gay crowd, although there is a special gay show once a month."

Nevertheless, Mr Simi recognises the importance of the pink pound to the rejuvenation of Soho.

"Soho is a fantastic place. It really is still a village inside London. But five years ago it was also quite a sinister place. The gay community has helped bring the life and lights and fun back to Soho."

Mr Simi disputes the contention that the British are sexually repressed. "The British are obsessed by sex," he

says. "Just look at the tabloids. The silent majority don't have any problem with sex. People here go on sex holidays, groups of girls going to the Mediterranean. It is a nation of Shirley Valentines."

Mr Simi said he had a "good rapport" with Paul Raymond before the founder sold to him. Now, there is little contact. "I know he still carries on with his businesses, but I never see him now."

The Paul Raymond Organisation still pursues its magazine and property interests.

Mr Simi first went to work at the Revuebar in the 1970s. "I was a dancer and we had a mouth off and were lying on a nudist beach when we thought, why don't we do a show like Oh! Calcutta or Hair. Paul Raymond saw us and booked us."

Now, with 50 staff, Mr Simi is sitting on a prime piece of Soho real estate. But he has no plans to move out, and fully expects the club to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

## Reviewing Raymond

- Paul Raymond was half of a clairvoyant act called Mr and Miss Tree.
- The Arts Council helped to fund the Dragon Ladies Grotesque Burlesque Revue at the Raymond Revuebar, featuring latex, body parts and multiple tattoos.
- One of the Raymond Revuebar's acts featured a dolphin trained to remove a woman's bra.
- Paul Raymond's real name is Geoffrey Quinn.
- As a 14-year-old, Raymond used to watch through the keyhole as his aunt undressed.
- In 1958 the Raymond Revuebar became the first legal nude show with moving dancers. Previously, nude performers had to adopt stationary poses.
- Raymond was fined £5,000 in 1961 for keeping a "disorderly house".
- In the seventies Raymond, with five theatres, was the West End's biggest impresario.
- In 1992 he was declared to be Britain's richest man, knocking the Duke of Westminster off the top of the list, with a fortune estimated at £1.5 billion, much of it in property. Estimates of his current fortune vary from £350 million to £1.65 billion.
- Artists at the Raymond Revuebar have included Tride Kent, Mika Mingo, Bonnie Bell, the Ding Dong Girl, Tempest Storm, Cheri Thunder and Melody Bubbles.

## Maxwell case lawyer paid £1/2m

Ministers raise heat in campaign against big legal aid earnings

Claire Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

THE QC who represented one of Kevin Maxwell's co-defendants was paid nearly £500,000 by the taxpayer in 1996-97 for his defence.

Peter Rook's payment is among the 20 highest from legal aid in that year. The 20 barristers will be named in a parliamentary answer tomorrow as the Government squares up against increased Bar opposition to its plans to curb high legal aid fees.

Mr Rook defended Robert Dunn, who had charges against him discontinued after he had a heart attack during the Maxwell fraud trial.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, urged the Bar, leaders when he dubbed its highest earners "fat cats" and pledged to cut their fees from legal aid. In a Lords debate last December he revealed that 35 unnamed barristers had received legal aid payments totalling between £270,000 and £575,000 for criminal work in 1996-97, and 20 others between £203,000 and £411,000 for civil work.

The big earners will be revealed by Geoff Hoon, minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, in answer to a question by Colin Pickthall. Mr Pickthall is parliamentary private secretary to Alun Michael, the Home Office minister responsible for criminal policy.

The Government has been paving the way to cut legal aid fees for big criminal cases with a series of public attacks on "fat cat" barristers. Lord Irvine revealed in a Lords debate last July that "signifi-

cant numbers" of QCs earned over £1 million a year, without making it clear that these were not legal aid lawyers. He said: "Fat cat lawyers railing at the inequity of court fees do not attract the sympathy of the public."

In September the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, told barristers at their annual conference it was "astonishing" that 1 per cent of criminal cases took 40 per cent of the criminal legal budget. He said: "The days in which lawyers, especially the senior criminal bar, could simply apply upward pressure on the going rate... and catapult themselves into ever higher earnings brackets must end."

In December, Lord Irvine said barristers earned much more than any other profession from taxpayers' money, and almost 1,000 earned more from legal aid in 1996-97 than hospital consultants are paid.

In an attempt to counter the bad publicity, the Bar Council

has released copies of letters to the legal aid board from some of the high earners protesting that the figures are misleading. They say the sums are wrongly portrayed by the media as annual earnings, when they include VAT, often cover work done over more than one year, and take no account of expenses.

On the other hand, the figures may not represent the barrister's total earnings, as some receive money from other sources.

Daniel Brennan QC, vice-chairman of the Bar, who received £380,000 from civil legal aid in 1996-97, said he won most of his fees were reimbursed to the legal aid board by the loser.

The Bar Council points out that Mr Rook, although paid £497,797 in 1996-97, received nothing from legal aid the previous year or this year. But he spends much of his time prosecuting.

## American four-year-old kills friend

Martin Kettle  
in Washington

A SIX-year-old boy was shot dead by a four-year-old friend at a birthday party after the children found a .38 calibre pistol in a handbag. North Carolina police said yesterday.

Emergency services were called to the home of six-year-old Carlos Gilmer in Greensboro after neighbours heard a shot. They found the boy dead in a downstairs room and the four-year-old playing outside.

The victim's godmother, British Lindsay, was up-

stairs preparing for Carlos's party. Neighbours said she had been hanging a "Happy Birthday" banner on the wall shortly before the shooting.

The case is the latest in a series of unrelated incidents in the United States of children killing people with guns. It comes less than 48 hours after a Pennsylvania youth killed a teacher and wounded a pupil at a school dance.

Witnesses in the Greensboro shooting said the two children had been having a pretend gun-battle before the incident.

"They always used to come up to me going 'Pow! Pow!'"

said 12-year-old neighbour Tabatha White. "He probably went up to Carlos and did the same thing."

Greensboro police said that the four-year-old shot Carlos in the neck.

Police would not name the suspected killer, nor say who owned the gun. However, they confirmed that they are considering charging its owner under a state law that prohibits leaving guns accessible to minors.

After the earlier incident in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, police charged 14-year-old Andrew Wurst with criminal homicide, reckless endanger-

ment and other charges relating to weapons and drugs. The shootings took place at a school graduation dance on Friday night.

Wurst shot a teacher, John Gillette, in the head on a patio and then went into the hall, where he fired several more shots, wounding one person and grazing two others. He left the building and was arrested shortly afterwards. He was carrying a .25 calibre handgun registered to his father.

Last month four students and a teacher were shot dead by two children in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

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"This is something that takes them away from what they see on the street, away from the depressing football matches on television and back to the romance of the old Arabic movies," said Khaled Farahat, Cairo critic. Round the world with Titanic

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# Straw rejects report of rise in drugs use

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**H**ARD drugs are damaging more young people than ever, according to a report by Britain's biggest drugs charity.

Turning Point claims that increasing numbers of teenagers suffer from the effects of heroin addiction. The charity claims that the number of young people it treated last year increased by 13 per cent to 29,599, including a dramatic rise in young women.

Asked about the report, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, strongly denied that the Government was losing the war on drugs.

Speaking yesterday on BBC's Breakfast with Frost, Mr Straw said: "It is not the case that more and more and

more young people are taking drugs.

"The best evidence based on British crime surveys and other very independently conducted surveys is that drug-taking among young people is stabilising.

"There's some evidence to suggest that it had gone down a little."

The report throws a shadow over a white paper, to be published today, which sets out a 10-year strategy for dealing with drug-taking.

As well as an increase in heroin use, the Turning Point report also shows a rise in use of ecstasy and cocaine among young people.

Mr Straw did acknowledge that too many young people were trying drugs to allow any complacency.

"Half of all youngsters have experimented with drugs, and that's far too high a proportion," he said. The white paper, to be unveiled by the "Drugs Tsar" Keith Hellawell, will propose counselling together with "healthy lifestyle" classes for school children.

But at its heart is a compulsory drug testing and treatment order that will steer offenders who use illicit drugs into treatment. New Home Office research shows that 63 per cent of all those taken to police stations after being arrested tested positive for illicit drugs.

Today's white paper says those who are convicted of possessing cannabis should be referred to counselling, and that hard-drug addicts who steal to pay for their habits should be sent for compulsory drug treatment.

Ministers insist that the latest American research shows that treatment programmes

do not have to be voluntary to be successful.

But treatment workers fear that the current overburdened network of treatment services will be overwhelmed by the plan.

Pressure groups yesterday also claimed they will not get the resources they would need to implement new measures.

Increased spending is unlikely until the Government spending review is completed later in the year.

Roger Howard, chief executive of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, said the Government had estimated it would cost £40 million to implement fully the drug testing and treatment provisions contained in the Crime and Disorder Bill.

The programme is to be introduced with three pilot schemes, the first on Mersey-

side, backed by only an extra £1 million of public funds.

"The Government needs to give a clear signal at the launch of the national drugs strategy that it will go further than just allocating the £1 million needed to fund three pilot projects."

The level of drug-related crime indicated by recent Home Office research and the success of drug treatment means we have to wonder whether £40 million is sufficient to meet the potential need. People going to already overburdened drug treatment services must not be displaced by those referred from the courts," said Mr Howard.

Ministers will also come under pressure today from local authority social services directors, who are pressing for the Government's drugs strategy to be extended to cover alcohol abuse.

The book also alleges some police officers believe Ms Guerin had herself shot in the leg to bolster her reputation for rattling the underworld.

Ms O'Reilly, one of Ireland's most famous journalists and political editor of the Sunday Business Post, said that sister titles of Ms Guerin's paper, the Sunday Independent, were helping to smear her and her book, published by Vintage.

"Despite the hysteria it's a

## New book debunks murdered Dublin crime journalist

Saintly crusader was liar who faked earlier shooting, respected editor alleges. **Rory Carroll reports**

**A** BOOK has accused

Veronica Guerin, the murdered Irish reporter, of being a liar and possibly faked a shooting to promote her image as a fearless investigator. Even more damning allegations were omitted because they were too unpalatable, said its author, journalist Emily O'Reilly.

The Guerin family has reacted by branding The Life and Death of a Crime Reporter as a hatchet job by a jealous rival.

To be published next week, the book has shocked Ireland by challenging the near-saintly image conferred on Ms Guerin after she was shot dead in June 1996. Disney is reportedly negotiating film rights with her husband, Graham Turley.

The book claims Ms Guerin forged documents to further her career, lied about her age and qualifications, took her infant son on dangerous assignments and rifled the private papers of Charles Haughey, the former prime minister.

The book also alleges some police officers believe Ms Guerin had herself shot in the leg to bolster her reputation for rattling the underworld.

It omits a claim, reported in the Dublin-based Magill magazine, that Ms Guerin tried to vote 26 times for Mr Haughey while she was an activist for his party, Fianna Fail. The magazine also claimed she tried to extract money from politicians by pretending her son was ill.

The charges have been angrily rejected by most members of the Guerin family and her employer, Independent Newspapers, owned by Tony O'Reilly (no relation to the author).

Before a gunman on a motorcycle shot her five times while waiting at traffic lights in a Dublin suburb, Ms Guerin specialised in revealing the wealth and activities of leading Dublin criminals.

A man has been charged with her murder. Another, John Gilligan, is in Belmarsh prison in south London, fighting extradition to Ireland on charges related to the murder.

Ms O'Reilly, one of Ireland's most famous journalists and political editor of the Sunday Business Post, said that sister titles of Ms Guerin's paper, the Sunday Independent, were helping to smear her and her book, published by Vintage.

"Despite the hysteria it's a

very sober book, very thoughtful," said Ms O'Reilly.

"Those that say so haven't read it, since it's not published yet."

Ms O'Reilly alleged that Ms Guerin's newspaper shared responsibility for her death by not relying in her drive to obtain scoops whatever the risk.

"The Sunday Independent was seen as sleazy, voyeuristic and exploitative. Having Veronica gave them some moral authority. They don't want her reputation tarnished. It's in their interests to deflect attention away from their role. Veronica lacked normal controls and behaviour; it was someone else's job to do it for her."

Willie Kealey, deputy editor of the Sunday Independent, said it had continuously discussed Ms Guerin's safety, had insisted she accept police protection, had installed a security system in her home, and had offered her a different beat.

"The book seems to make Veronica out to be untruthful, unreliable and unstable," he said. "I knew her, she wasn't any of those things. Most of the anecdotes [in the book] are anonymous and unprovable."

He also rejected Ms O'Reilly's claim that the Independent group had campaigned to smear her. "Paranoid nonsense. We didn't all sit down and decide to have a go at her."

"The book seems to make Veronica out to be untruthful, unreliable and unstable. She wasn't any of those. Most of the anecdotes are anonymous and unprovable"

**Willie Kealey, deputy editor of the Sunday Independent**

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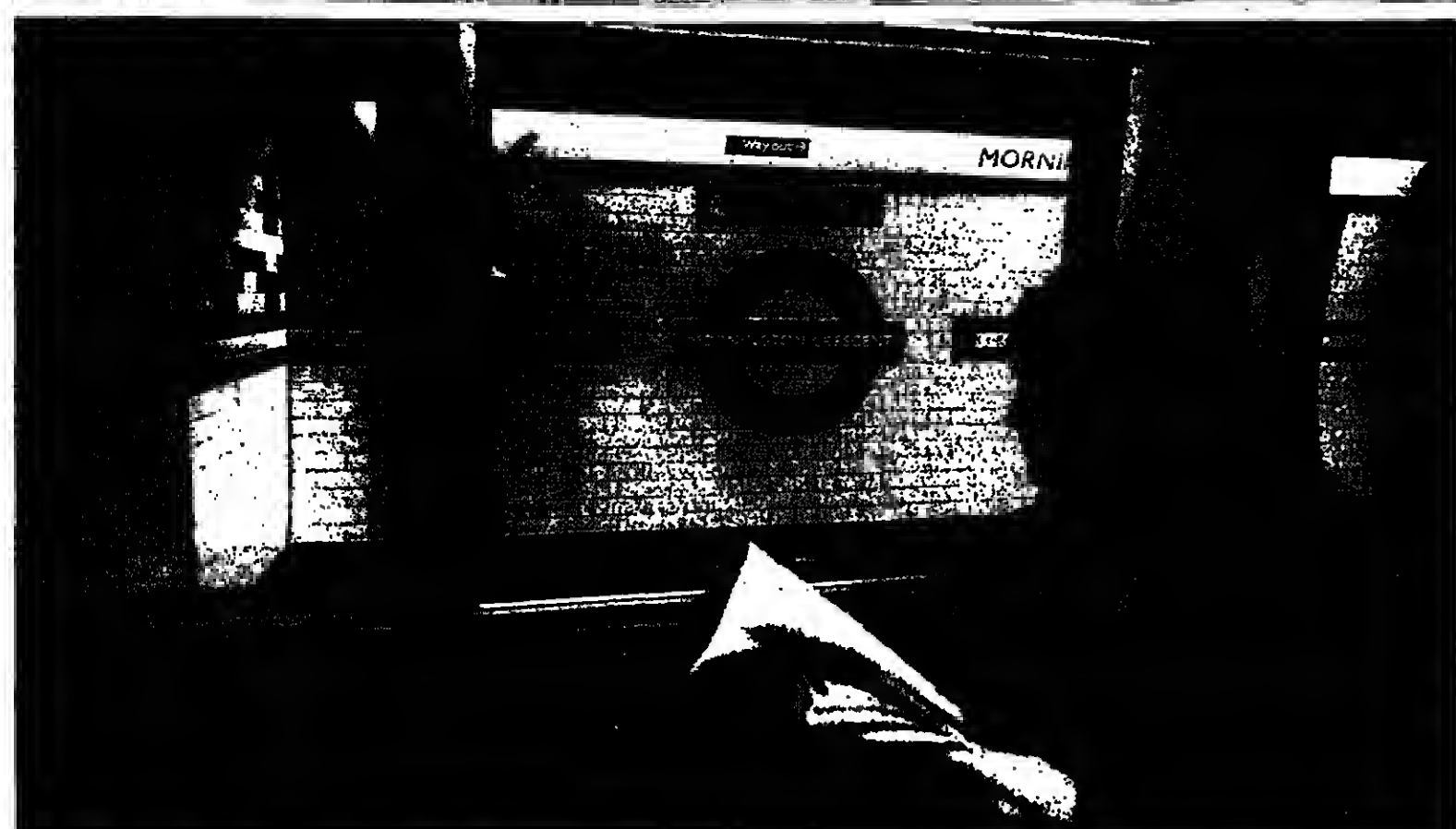
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The lights go on at the newly refurbished Northern Line station in London which opens for passengers today

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID MANSELL

## Tube station facelift sees light of day after delay of five years

**I**T WILL be the moment many Londoners thought they would never see in their lifetime, writes Stuart Millar. A little after midday today, a train will pull into Mornington Crescent tube station in north London and — for the first time in 54 years — atop for passengers.

After one of the longest-running sagas in the history of the Underground, the Northern Line station, which was closed in 1992 for refurbishment but stayed shut, will today reopen for business.

After an elaborate ribbon-cutting ceremony by the presenters of the Radio 4's *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* — which made Mornington Crescent's plight the stuff of legend — passengers will be able to marvel at the restored tiling, the hi-tech lifts and the improved safety features that have set London Underground back £10 million.

But to the horror of local councillors and campaigners the Northern Line's management has decided that the station will close at 9pm every night.

The 68-year-old station was handling 7,000 passengers a day when it closed in October 1992, for an 18-month, £7 million refurbishment. The lifts were so old that when the original motor and switchgear were removed they were immediately claimed by the London Transport Museum as exhibits.

The work was stopped the following year by funding cuts, and it was three years before the decision was taken to press ahead with the refurbishment. Since then, its reopening has been announced and subsequently delayed on numerous occasions.

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## Diana's mother 'fears for fund'

Amelia Gentleman

**T**HE mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday endorsed Earl Spencer's concerns about the management of the Princess's memorial fund.

Frances Shand Kydd said a letter sent by her son to the fund's chairman, calling on him to wind up the charity, was written with her support.

Family friction over the handling of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund became public this weekend as it emerged that Lord Spencer had criticised the fund — over which his elder sister Lady Sarah McCorquodale presides — suggesting it was tasteless and degrading to Diana's memory.

In a letter to chairman Anthony Julius, Lord Spencer said trustees should hand out all the money collected and start fund-raising.

Mrs Shand Kydd, aged 62, said: "The letter that my son wrote to the trustees of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund in early April, was written on my behalf as well. It expressed concerns and asked questions."

But a senior trustee yesterday expressed surprise at the way that Lord Spencer had voiced his concerns, suggesting there had been a breakdown in communications between the Spencer siblings.

Fund spokeswoman, Vivienne Parry, said that trustees had found it strange that Lord Spencer had not spoken to his sister and that he had trusted newspaper reports about their intentions rather than asking the fund.

"We were very surprised to receive the letter. We thought that because Lady Sarah was

on our fund, that would have been an obvious avenue of communication."

Lady Sarah is understood to believe the fund should not shut down when it is raising more than £1 million a week. It has already collected £14 million and expects to have £100 million by the end of the year.

She sees the memorial fund as crucial to preserving the princess's memory, while her brother has focused instead on setting up a museum in her honour.

The Earl's letter said: "The fund should collect money and distribute it, not indulge in commercialisation itself," and concluded: "The fund would be wise to set itself a date, preferably soon, by which time it seeks to donate the funds it has accumulated and wind up its operation."

Trustees announced on Saturday they were to hold a day-long seminar on the fund's future next month.

Mrs Parry conceded that the first few months had not gone smoothly — admitting they had made a "horrible mistake" in permitting the princess's name to be attached to a margarine tub.

Responding to reports that the commercial exploitation of his mother, and echoed Lord Spencer's concerns about the fund, she revealed that trustees had wanted to involve him in key decisions.

"We asked whether it might be appropriate for him to be more actively involved. The answer was very clear — that he is a school boy and has other things to concentrate on. Nobody has communicated anything about the boys' wishes in this matter; it's extremely difficult."

## France warned of 'scorpion's sting' in bank presidency row

Michael White

**T**ONY Blair remains determined to force France to compromise with Germany in a diplomatic row over the presidency of the European Central Bank that threatens to disrupt the timetable for the single currency.

Neither Paris nor Bonn is willing to accept the proposal from Britain, as European Union president, that their rival candidates each take half the eight-year allotted term of the bank chief, then the "scorpion's sting" scenario will mean a third candidate will have to be found.

"If four years each is too much for the French to swallow, then we face the scorpion's sting, in which they kill each other's candidate," said a senior Whitehall source.

European leaders are due to meet in Brussels next week and to confirm that 11 of the union's 15 member states will be eligible to join the euro when it comes into being on January 1.

The stand-off over the German-sponsored Dutch candidate, Wim Duisenberg, head of the European Monetary Institute, and the French choice, Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the Bank of France, threatens to overshadow the symbolic occasion being chaired by Mr Blair.

Whitehall wants both sides to accept that Mr Duisenberg will be appointed, but on the informal understanding he will see in the issue of notes and coins to ordinary consumers, around 2002, and then declare his mission complete. Mr Trichet would step into his shoes and French honour be satisfied.

Lucy Patton

**W**OMEN and children's lives are at risk from the threatened closure of Britain's only 24-hour domestic violence crisis line, claims the head of the charity which runs it.

Sandra Horley, chief executive of Refuge, said the line may have to close because of an unsuccessful bid to the National Lottery Charities Board.

The charity received a start-up lottery grant of £104,000 and was able to increase the number of phone lines from one to four, but with the news that there is no more lottery money, the crisis line — which receives no government funding — is back down to one line.

Ms Horley said: "If it is forced to close because of lack of funding, women and children at risk will suffer severe violence and in some cases the result could be fatal."

The crisis line links all the 200 women's refuges throughout the country, and without it the volunteers will not be able to help women to find a place in one of the refuges.

The crisis line is a gateway to the refuges," said Ms Horley.

"Forty per cent of the women ringing us are in need of urgent refuge."

Helen Kennedy QC is backing calls for the line to stay open, and said: "Many women who contact Refuge are desperately worried about the safety of their children. Refuge runs a pioneering programme supporting children who have witnessed very violent incidents — one boy saw his father shoot his mother in the stomach, another watched his mother being raped by his father."

"Too many have seen their mothers beaten black and blue. By allowing the crisis line to close, we are turning our backs on these children."

Half of the women running the line are survivors of domestic violence and Refuge says one in nine women will be severely beaten by her male partner every year.

The crisis line was set up in 1971 when Refuge established the world's first women's refuge, in Chiswick, west London.

The crisis line now has 95 volunteers helping to keep the line open. Refuge has

made two of its four office staff redundant because of lack of funds.

Ms Horley said: "If the crisis line closes down, where will the women go? They will have nowhere to turn to. We were asking for £307,000 in lottery funding, which is a drop in the ocean, but it would allow us to keep the lines open. We are talking about life and death issues."

Ruby Wax, the television presenter, has also added her support to Refuge. She said: "The lottery is funding pigs and bereaved pet owners — surely all the battered women and the children Refuge helps are no less deserving?"

"If Refuge's national crisis line closes, how will these women and children get help? Who will give them advice and support?"

The National Lottery Charities Board does not give reasons for its decisions not to award funds and Ms Horley said: "It leaves us in a terrible position, because we don't know why we didn't get the money so we don't know what to do if we reapply."

Refuge's crisis line: 0900 995 443. The Refuge donation line: 0171 395 7709

## Saudi lawyer says nurses to be freed soon

Clare Longridge

**T**WO British nurses tried to escape from Saudi Arabia within a fortnight, their Saudi lawyer said yesterday.

Salah al-Hejailan, their Saudi lawyer, confirmed a report in the Sunday Telegraph that the nurses could be free in 10 to 14 days, adding: "They could be home sooner than that, as there is a very favourable consideration for their release."

The prediction follows a plea for clemency made by the nurses' families to King Fahd, which the Saudi authorities indicated "would be treated sympathetically".

The two, Deborah Parry, aged 38, from Alton in Hampshire, and Lucille McLaughlin, aged 32, from Dundee, were accused in December 1996 of murdering Yvonne Gifford, aged 55, an Australian nurse, who worked with them at the King Fahd hospital complex.

In September McLaughlin was found guilty of being an accessory to murder and sentenced to eight years in jail and 500 lashes. Appeal judges ruled that the sentence was too severe, and she is awaiting

ing a new sentence.

Mystery has surrounded the case. Although it is believed there has been a verdict in the case of Parry, it has never been announced. The nurses claim their confessions were forced.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, raised the women's case with Crown Prince Abdullah last week during his visit to the Middle East.

McLaughlin's father, Stan McLaughlin, yesterday said he had not heard anything about her release being forthcoming. The families of both women have made repeated trips to Saudi Arabia.

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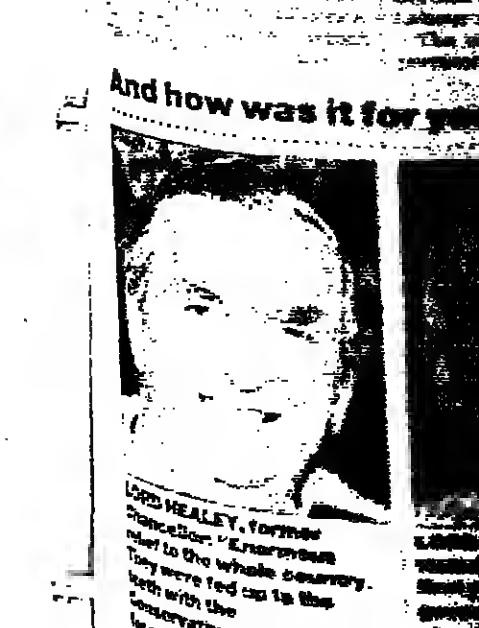
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## Labour — but the



Labour's first year... Michael White survey... One year... And how was it for you?

And how was it for you?...



And how was it for you?...



# Labour on a roll after a virtuoso first year — but the testing decisions still remain



LABOUR'S FIRST YEAR

Tony Blair's government remains the most popular over one year after its landslide victory at the polls. As the May 1 anniversary approaches, *Guardian* writers assess Labour's performance in a series of articles. Today: Has the party lived up to its key manifesto pledges and how have ministers performed?

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**E**VEN the Conservatives say their initial fascination with the first year of New Labour politics has given way to admiration. They predict that disillusion will soon set in, but to judge by the opinion polls the public would give the Government an even bigger landslide majority if there were a general election tomorrow.

For an administration lacking any cabinet experience it was certainly a spectacular start, with the first 100 days exploding with breathtaking policy bombshells from Bank of England independence to the unexpected July Budget cash injections for schools and hospitals.

The height of the honeymoon was followed by a large number of smaller-scale decisions — from banning handguns to introducing a legal minimum three weeks' holiday a year to scrapping anti-family immigration rules — all of which brought a sense of humanity to the new Government. This feeling was underlined by the proclamation that Britain would in



Labour supporters celebrating victory last May at the Festival Hall, in London, when the party stormed back to power for the first time since 1979

future follow "an ethical" foreign policy.

The first Queen's Speech was dominated by large, complex, constitutional bills such as devolution for Scotland and Wales, introducing a mayor and an assembly for London, and the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights. Its impact was blunted if only because these were such long-standing Labour commitments that they seemed like old familiar faces finally dropping by.

The lack of Conservative opposition to some of the larger measures, such as the Crime and Disorder Bill, added to the sense that this was a government which

could do little wrong even if decisions such as passing ahead with more private jails irritated left-wing critics.

The decision to stick to the Conservatives' public spending limits for the first two years also postponed any early damaging arguments over whether there should be radical changes in how to share out the Whitehall cake. But along with the Tory inheritance came some nasty surprises with sympathetic business people which led to the tobacco sponsorship fiasco.

A growing division began to appear between policies which had been agreed while Labour was in opposition and those which had to be thrashed out after it had

taken office. In the priority area of education, the agreed phasing out of the assisted places schemes, the drive to raise literacy and numeracy standards, and the extra billions for schools and equipment have been impressive.

What has looked rather more flaky has been the "on the hoof" decisions such as the reaction to the Dearing Report on student tuition fees and the, at best, naive dealings with sympathetic business people which led to the tobacco sponsorship fiasco.

This split is a pattern repeated around much of Whitehall. The welfare benefits debate became the principal case study in how not to conduct a policy review. The

'The pledge to more openness means some ministries have let outsiders back into the corridors of power. For some campaign groups it is the first time in 20 years. It has removed some of the bile present in the public policy debates of the Tory years'

new Labour  
new life for Britain

**New Labour's Early Pledges**

- Cut class sizes to 30 or under for five, six and seven-year-olds by September 1998. On course. Some 477,000 pupils in 10,000 primary schools have been phased out with the first 250,000 pupils by September 1997. The rest by September 1998 in classes of less than 30.
- Fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders by handing the power to the courts. Not yet implemented. Good practice guidelines issued in October 1997. Changes set out in White Paper in November and included in Crime and Disorder Bill.
- Cut NHS waiting lists by 10 per cent by September 1998. NHS waiting lists fell by 10 per cent in 1997. Last month's Budget promised cuts of £1.5 billion over the next three years. NHS waiting lists fell by 10 per cent in 1997. Last month's Budget promised cuts of £1.5 billion over the next three years.

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Labour

## One year on, and Cabinet can scarcely believe its luck

Michael White surveys how ministers performed under the eye of their 'mega-star' leader, and who may face the chop

**O**FFICIALLY the Downing St line is that there should be only modest celebrations while there is still so much to do. But most members of the Cabinet which meets this week on the eve of the Government's first birthday can scarcely believe their luck.

Was it a year ago that Tony Blair himself, now feted around the world, was being tarred as "Bambi", too young to hold Britain's highest elective office?

Not everything has gone right. Come the reshuffle there will be sackings. And on occasions the Labour media machine misfired, there has even been some Old Tory sleaze.

But not even the Asian meltdown or the sorrowful pound could darken a year of economic sunshine for Gordon Brown.

Talk of Brown as *de facto* prime minister to President Blair is misconceived. Mr Blair is very much the boss. But Mr Brown undeniably has his sphere of influence, his "parallel empire", which may one day cause trouble.

What has already caused trouble is the Blair court — the "princes" as John Prescott called them in an interview yesterday. Mr Blair's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, and the Dome Secretary, Peter Mandelson, get more headlines than the average Cabinet member.

Mr Brown is a Cabinet star. So too is Mr Mandelson, the Northern Ireland Secretary, whose tony-festive style, shrewder than it looks, has helped move mountains of prejudice.

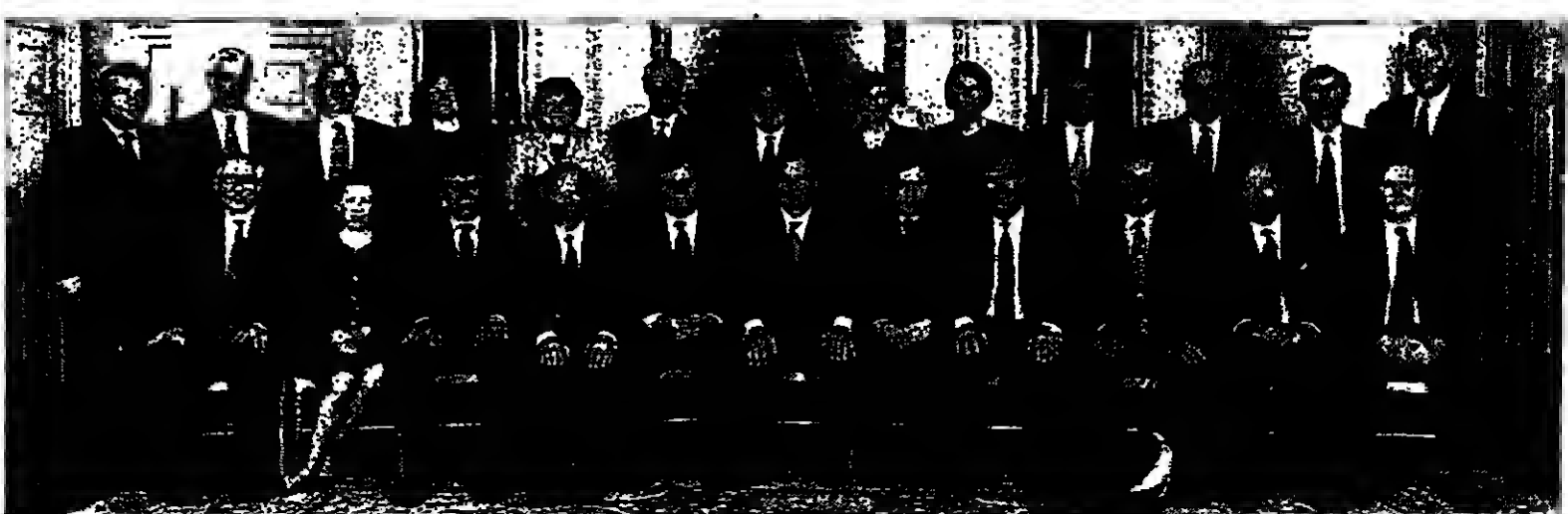
Earnest Jack Straw may talk too much in Cabinet, but as Home Secretary he turned a domestic embarrassment — over his son William's drugs caper — into a political plus.

Colleagues agree that Old Labour holdover, Frank Dobson, has also proved an unlikely star at the Department of Health.

Mr Blair is the mega-star and his personal ascendancy is part of the Cabinet's luck, although it is far too early to judge his place in history beyond that record 177-seat Labour majority last May.

The century's youngest PM, premier likes to deal bilaterally with colleagues, by phone or on his office sofa. But since the lone parent revolt in December (reluctant to interfere in the "parallel empire", Mr Blair shares with Mr Brown and Harriet Harman the blame for not defusing it in time), there have been more genuinely open Cabinet discussions. "Tony makes a few opening remarks, but not in a leading fashion (unlike Thatcher), then opens it up for discussion before drawing conclusions or asking the relevant colleague to do so," one Cabinet member explains.

There is a middle tier of



Flushed with success... The Labour Cabinet on taking office a year ago

ministers who have done well enough to keep their heads when the reshuffle comes, though Donald Dewar, admitted author of the devolution blueprint, is eager to be off home to lead his country as First Minister. Less missed, the Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies, will also go home to the Welsh Assembly.

His hair's-breadth win was one of the Cabinet's luckier breaks.

Will George Robertson, Defence Secretary, get the Scottish portfolio back when Mr Dewar goes? Unlikely. Though middle-ranking min-

isters like Mr Robertson may have a low-profile post, Ann Taylor, leader of the Commons and modernising its procedures too cautiously for impatient new MPs, does not. But there are worse fates than no publicity, as Robin Cook's year shows. The Foreign Secretary's private life drove his career off course, but newly-remarried his rehabilitation began last week.

Likewise Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor — but he is too important to Mr Blair personally to be dropped for his taste in wallpaper.

From the opposite direc-

tion, John Prescott, often seems outside the loop, getting on top of the hydra-headed problems of his mega-department. But the Blair camp is always careful to praise him. "Tony has come to trust John's judgment," says one insider.

At Education and Employment, David Blunkett's "standards-not-structures" mantra is very on-message. He and his team are judged a success, leftwingers who have made the transition into loyal modernisers.

Two veterans of the Callaghan years, Margaret Beck-

ett (Trade and Industry) and Jack Cunningham (Agriculture), are routinely accused of being lazy. On beef, BSE, blind trusts and BP's Lord Simon, they have hit controversy but survived. What helps, say some, is an Old Labour sense of who-ya-really-are: it is the bright young things who have a less sure touch.

Chris Smith at Culture and Chris Smith at International Development had shaky starts but have settled down, and Mr Mandelson's suspected designs on Mr Smith's job have been deflected.

If current plans are enacted Mr Mandelson will instead enter Cabinet in an enhanced version of David Clark's Cabinet Office job as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, when the reshuffle comes in May or, more likely, July. Colleagues concede that is "a bit unfair" on Mr Clark, but politics is unfair — like nice Gavin Strang at Transport, also tipped the black spot.

But by general consent, Harriet Harman is "the wounded gazelle on the edge of the herd" and will be moved from Social Security, likely to go to Mr Brown's quietly diligent deputy, Alastair Darling.

But Ms Harman will survive. How about using the vacant salary (Dr Strang's?) to create a Cabinet Minister for Women?

At age 64 Lord Richard, leader of the Lords, is expendable, but not while Lords reform remains so hedged with problems.

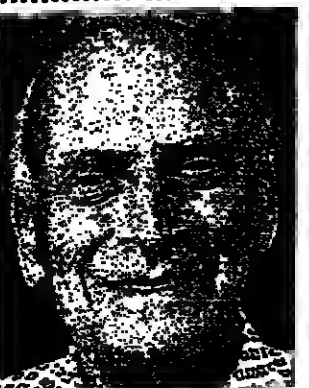
At this stage it is all tea-room gossip. But Mr Blair is unlikely to be an eager butcher and may shuffle the middle ranks more than the top. In that at least, he is like most tenants of No 10. In that run of good luck he is in a league of his own.

Tomorrow, Matthew Engel in Wimbledon, where one of the biggest swings brought a Labour victory in a true-blue constituency

### And how was it for you?



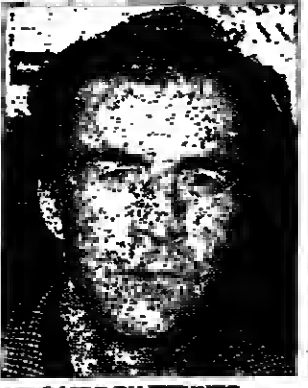
**LORD HEALEY**, former Chancellor: "Enormous relief to the whole country. They were fed up to the teeth with the Conservatives. It was time for a change and what a change it has been. Tony has shown immense competence and great charm. He is clearly planning for a second term."



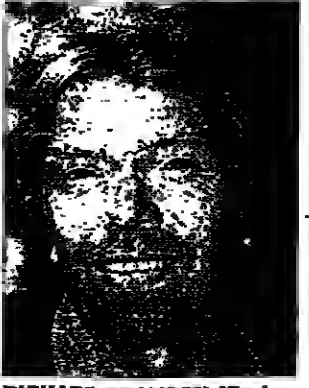
**LORD YEHUDI MENUHIN**, violinist and conductor: "The first year of our new government has been almost unblemished. However, I take issue with the Labour Party on hereditary peerage. I strongly believe the House of Lords must remain a chamber consisting not of the elected but the appointed."



**SIR BERNARD INGHAM**, former chief press secretary to Baroness Thatcher: "It looks better than it is, but looking worse all the time. Their method of media relations — which the Mafia would recognise — is one of 'you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours'. They have had a wonderful ride with the media but I don't believe it can last. They are all presentation with very little substance."



**SIR RANULPH FIENNES**, explorer and farmer: "From the point of view of a farmer I consider Jack Cunningham to be the devil incarnate. But in most other areas I think they are showing a lot of promise, in particular Blair, Straw and Brown."



**RICHARD BRANSON**, Virgin Group chairman: "Peace in Northern Ireland would be enough for any prime minister to achieve in his lifetime. As it is, that seems possible within a year of Tony Blair taking office. We also have a Britain that is as buoyant and vibrant as it has ever been. It has been a wonderful start."



**SIR PETER HALL**, theatre director: "Marvellous in the international field and constitutional matters, but a bitter, bitter disappointment as far as culture and the arts go. It certainly hasn't been the celebration of creativity that Tony Blair promised us. I fear for the soul of the country."

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Highway protests, political tussles, public gloom and lethargy set tone as 50th anniversary celebrations climax

# Rows give Israel pre-jubilee blues

David Sharrock in Jerusalem

ISRAELIS began a week of celebrations yesterday marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of their state by burning tyres, trying to block the main road to Jerusalem, complaining that peace groups and women are being sidelined and expressing fears about the fate of the Middle East peace process.

"I can't wait until it's all over and we can forget the whole thing," said Shulamit, aged 30, a secretary. The negative public reaction has nothing to do with lack of patriotism but seems to come from a hardening sense of impending disaster.

**'I can't wait until it's all over and we can forget the whole thing,' said Shulamit, a secretary**

The presence of President Clinton's Middle East envoys — and later in the week his vice-president, Al Gore — is casting more shadow than light over the proceedings, with the Hebrew media concluding that it is decision time for the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, about

the extent of an Israeli troop withdrawal from the occupied West Bank. Police arrested 10 demonstrators as hundreds attempted to close the main road connecting Israel's two most important cities, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The protest

was by people from suburban communities objecting to proposals that Jerusalem annex towns to its west, to create a super-municipality. The town of Mevaseret, five miles north-west of Jerusalem, announced it was cancelling its Independence Day celebrations and would boy-

cott the national jubilee. "They can't take away our independence and then expect us to celebrate," Mevaseret's council leader, Eli Moyal, said.

Israel claims Jerusalem, in its entirety, as its capital, while the Palestinians want the eastern sector as capital of their future state.

Some Israelis have called for a westward municipal expansion to boost Jerusalem's Jewish population — more than a quarter of the city's residents are Palestinians — and especially that of secular Jews. The handshake has also been left out of television trailers.

Images of Rahin, including the last moments before his assassination in November 1995 by an ultra-nationalist Jew, were added to the historical review only belatedly, in response to a public outcry, said Shay Narkus, a lawyer for the Dor Shalom peace

plan is due to go before parliament this week. Women's and peace groups have already registered their disaffection with the official ceremonies, accusing the jubilee committee's director, Doron Shmueli, of hijacking the anniversary for ideological reasons.

Critics note that the lavish stage production on Thursday reviewing the state's key moments will not show the 1993 White House handshake between the late Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, and the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat. The handshake has also been left out of television trailers.

Mr Shmueli acknowledged that this was no oversight. "I personally will not allow Arafat to be in any way connected with the jubilee celebrations," he told the daily newspaper Ha'aretz.

group founded by the murdered premier's son, Yuval. Mr Shmueli also drew criticism earlier this month when he threw a \$24,000 jubilee party for 450 Jewish settlers in the overwhelmingly Palestinian West Bank city of Hebron. Peace groups' events have been denied funding on

the grounds of lack of money. Yesterday, after a Supreme Court ruling harshly criticised the jubilee committee's selection of events for funding, a deal was nearly cobbled together to assist a combined independence day celebration by peace movements.

The reason given by the jubilee office was that pictures of girls might offend the ultra-Orthodox community, whose support is crucial to Mr Netanyahu's government.

The prime minister's senior adviser, David Bar-Ilan, said the jubilee's intention was "to treat history as fairly as possible. I'm not quite sure that in discussing Israel's achievements, there is a need to include Yasser Arafat."

It broke down over a stipulation that the event should have "a national character and not [a] political" one, and should focus "on the positive and not the negative". The peace movements then threatened to turn up instead at Har Homa, the controversial Jewish housing development on

an east Jerusalem hillside called Jabel Ahn-Gneim, where rightwing activists plan their own "ceremony" on Thursday.

Israel's largest women's group, Netanet, complained that another jubilee advertisement which is meant to represent a spectrum of Israeli youth shows a native-born Jewish boy, an Ethiopian and a Russian — but no girls.

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## News in brief

### Afghan foes begin formal peace talks

AFGHANISTAN'S Taliban movement and its opponents have begun their first formal peace talks for more than a year, after the international community stepped up pressure for an end to almost 20 years of civil war.

The UN-sponsored talks got under way in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, despite clashes near Kabul in which more than 50 troops were reported wounded. The Taliban and the Northern Alliance accused each other of launching the offensive.

A UN official, James Ngeh, said the atmosphere of the talks was good and that both sides would be appealing to their leaders not to launch new military offensives. The factions have until the end of the week to prepare the ground for more substantive negotiations — Richard Galpin, Islamabad.

### Ruling party leads Nigeria poll

THE ruling United Nigeria Congress Party (UNCP) took an early lead in national assembly elections at the weekend, according to provisional results announced by state radio.

It said the UNCP won nine out of the first 12 senatorial seats to be declared by the electoral commission. Two other parties, the Democratic Party of Nigeria and the Congress for National Consensus, had won a seat each in the new 109-member senate. The UNCP was the first party to adopt military leader General Sani Abacha as its presidential candidate. His eventual adoption by all five parties for the August 1 presidential polls led to an opposition boycott of Saturday's elections. — Reuters, Lagos.

### Lebed set for election run-off

THE career of one of Russia's most powerful political personalities, the former paratrooper general Alexander Lebed, hung in the balance yesterday after he appeared to have narrowly forced a second round run-off in a Siberian election seen as a dress rehearsal for the presidential race in 2000.

Early results showed Mr Lebed trailing the incumbent Valery Zuykov by 37 per cent to 46 for the governorship of Krasnoyarsk Territory, a vast strip of the northern hemisphere which produces much of Russia's raw materials wealth. Mr Zuykov needed 50 per cent to win outright. If Gen Lebed, who helped Boris Yeltsin to victory in 1996, wins the run-off in two weeks' time, he will be well-placed to use Siberia to launch his campaign for the Kremlin. If he loses, it could be the death of his mission to become Russia's saviour. — James Meek, Moscow.

### Cycle of crime

THE wife of Italy's cycle-mad prime minister, Romano Prodi, has had her bicycle stolen. Flavia Prodi's bicycle was taken from a rack in the couple's home town of Bologna earlier this month.

"I'd had it a long time and I'd grown very fond of it," Mrs Prodi told Corriere della Sera newspaper. "It's the sixth one I've had stolen in 30 years but a bike is so useful I'm not giving up. I've bought myself a new one. It has gears to help me on the hills." Mr Prodi has promised himself a new racing bicycle to celebrate Italy's qualification for the first wave of European monetary union, which is expected to be rubber-stamped by the European Union at the weekend. — Reuters, Bologna.

### Kosovo 'explosives seized'



Albania's troops put on a show of readiness at the weekend near the capital, Tirana. They are being kept on alert due to continuing skirmishes along the border with Serbia's southern province of Kosovo, where the Serbian army yesterday said it ambushed about 10 "terrorists" trying to infiltrate the province from Albania.

The Serbs accused the group of trying to smuggle 20 cases of landmines, explosives, and other military equipment into Kosovo, whose ethnic Albanian majority wants independence from Serbia. — Reuters

### Police fire on student protest

INDONESIAN police fired rubber bullets at students who had held them with Molotov cocktails during protests demanding President Suharto's resignation in the north Sumatra city of Medan at the weekend, witnesses said.

At least four students were shot in Saturday's clashes, where students also claimed police abducted five students. What began as a peaceful protest against Indonesia's economic crisis has turned into an increasingly violent nationwide movement with tens of thousands protesting daily. — John Aglionby, Jakarta.

### Greedy monk steals eggs

A BUDDHIST monk in eastern Thailand stole the eggs of two snakes, claiming he could divine winning lottery numbers from them, but police made him take them back, police said yesterday. News that two box constructors were hatching their eggs in Wangnamyen district of Sakhaew province last week drew hundreds of people. — Reuters, Bangkok.



Hunger striker Kimsang rests beside a traditional Tibetan scarf, which lies on the bed of one of three other Tibetan protesters forcibly taken to hospital

PHOTOGRAPH: SAURABH DAS

## India breaks up Tibetan hunger strike

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

IN AN attempt to spare the feelings of China's visiting military chief, Indian police yesterday carried out a midnight raid on a tented camp where Tibetan protesters have vowed to die in protest, dragging three to hospital for force feeding.

In their gauge tent, the remaining three today begin their 49th day on a diet of water and lime juice, their bodies giving off the stench of starvation and their speech confined to whispers. The hunger strike has been deeply embarrassing for New Delhi, the United Nations, and the Dalai Lama. The suicide fast betrays the Buddhist principle of non-violence.

Yesterday, at their camp near the Jantar Mantar observatory in the heart of the capital, the hunger strikers appeared oblivious to their supporters' protests.

"Tibet is occupied by China. Everything else we tried has failed. I am old now and I cannot hope to die in Tibet, so what else could I do," said Kunsang, a labourer, aged 70, who is the oldest of the protesters.

The hunger strikers want the UN General Assembly to resume a debate on Tibet, appoint a special rapporteur on human rights abuses, and oversee a referendum on independence.

Their supporters were hit yesterday, accusing India of howling to behind-the-scenes pressure from China and the local police of forcing the three men — who govern-

ment doctors say were near death — into the ambulances that took them to hospital.

"They dragged them like animals, they threw them into the van," said Dechen Tsomo, who confounded local constables by threatening to stab herself. New Delhi police

**The Dalai Lama visited but did not have the heart to ask protesters to end their fast. 'I am in a great dilemma,' he said**

deny using force and say they were compelled to act because suicide is illegal.

Ms Tsomo, who was born during her parents' escape across the Himalayas in 1959, left her job in Kochi, India, to join the protesters. "Many people are dying in

Tibet. It is an urgent time," she said. "We Tibetans don't know how to make weapons. We don't know how to fight. We only know how to beat drums in the temple."

The protesters, who belong to the Tibetan Youth Congress, claim the Indian police

ing autonomy from China, the congress advocates outright independence. Its prominence highlights growing impatience among younger Tibetans with the Dalai Lama's failed efforts to negotiate with the Chinese, and their elders' despair of returning to the homeland they fled in 1959.

The Dalai Lama has been unable to influence the hunger strike. "I am in a great dilemma," he said after visiting the camp. Although Buddhism prohibits violence — even against one's own person — he did not have the heart to ask the six to stop. "I don't know what to do. This is very sad, but it is difficult for me to protest against this."

The protest also highlights New Delhi's ambivalence towards Tibet. India has provided a haven for 150,000 Tibetans who followed the

Dalai Lama across the Himalayas, or who were born in exile, but it prohibits political action on its soil.

Several high-profile visitors have called at the camp, including diplomats and Hollywood's most committed campaigner for Tibet, Richard Gere. But Indian officials have stayed away, and the defence minister, George Fernandes, normally an outspoken sympathiser, has retreated into silence.

Gen Fu is expected to discuss confidence-building measures with Indian politicians and generals. New Delhi is expected to express its disquiet at reports that Chinese forces have built a helicopter pad on the remote mountain plateau of Arunachal Pradesh, and its concerns about Beijing's missile and nuclear co-operation with Pakistan.

## Prisoner of war 'returns from the dead'

**Julian Borger on an Iranian pilot who was captured in the 1980-88 conflict with Iraq and has only just been allowed home**

EIGHTEEN years after his jet fighter disappeared over Iraq, Hossein Lashkari had kept his existence a secret and his comrades had given him up as lost. But the Iranian pilot survived torture and a decade in solitary confinement to emerge as a reminder of one of this century's most brutal wars.

His release this month, 10 years after the Iran-Iraq conflict ended, was part of a prisoner exchange motivated by both countries' need to emerge from regional isolation. In recent weeks Iran has freed more than 5,000 Iraqis. In return Saddam Hussein, who long claimed to hold no Iranian prisoners of war, produced Flight Lieutenant Lashkari and 318 other Iranian POWs.

In an interview at a Tehran air-force base, the pilot, aged 45 and promoted to the rank of general since his release, said he had been subjected to physical and mental torture and kept in isolation for 10 years in a string of Baghdad villas converted into dungeons. He was the ace pilot of Saddam's elite, a hostage to be used only when necessary.

Iran-Iraq war began, his F4 fighter caught fire during a sortie and he ejected. "I'm not sure if I was hit or what caused the fire. I was flying low and the parachute opened not long before I hit the ground, so I came down hard and passed out. When I came to, Iraqi doctors were stitching up my mouth," Gen Lashkari said. The Iraqis removed his bed and forced the

wounded pilot to stand during interrogations. After 48 hours he was taken to Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad and the professionals got to work on him.

"They attached metal brushes to sensitive parts of my anatomy and gave me electric shocks. They beat the soles of my feet — 100 or 120 strokes until I passed out. And then there was psychological torture as well. They would come to my cell 30 or 40 times a night, just to ask me my name and number. They also blindfolded me and tied me up and drove me out of Baghdad at night. They took me off the road and fired into the air above my head."

He was asked for information his interrogators could have found in the international press. He now believes his torturers were more interested in testing their techniques and assessing his resistance and training. Released Iraqi prisoners have also alleged maltreatment and torture in captivity in Iran.

A million soldiers are thought to have died in the inconclusive eight-year war. After the 1998 ceasefire, mutual distrust remained intense. About 70,000 prisoners were sent home in 1990 but many more were held back as bargaining counters. Talks are under way to exchange the last POWs, but no one seems sure how many there are.

After the war ended, Gen Lashkari's conditions worsened. After eight years sharing a cell with other Iranians, he was moved on his own to a series of houses in Baghdad. "From the outside these places looked like expensive villas. Inside there were manacles and bars on the windows," Gen Lashkari said.

He spent the next 10 years in solitary, exchanging the odd word with Iraqi guards. As the years went by, he overheard only fragments of news — about the death of Ayatollah Khomeini and the collapse of the Soviet Union. During the Gulf war he could hear the bombs falling. The Iraqis told the Red Cross of his existence only in 1996.

Gen Lashkari says he owes his sanity to his Islamic faith and to the order he imposed on his life.

"I allotted every task a certain time so that I ended up feeling I needed an extra two hours in every 24," he said. This feat of self-discipline has left the grey-headed pilot withdrawn and dead-

pan. When he first telephoned his wife, Havva, from a hotel on the border, he greeted her formally. "Do you recognise my voice?" he asked. Havva broke down in tears. The family was reunited three weeks ago in front of a scrum of dignitaries, well-wishers and television cameras. When Hossein and Havva finally shook each other, they shook

hands and exchanged formal pleasantries. As he embraced his son Ali (whom he had last seen as a three-month-old infant), his first words to the young man were: "Why are you wearing glasses?" He admitted later: "It was all I could think of saying."

As Iran's longest-serving POW, Gen Lashkari has been proclaimed its foremost national hero. He has been filmed at national shrines and listening intently to the ayatollahs. Havva has been declared an Exemplary Wife. Their home life has been subjected to relentless media scrutiny.

When the young fight lieutenant last saw Iran in 1980, the revolution was only a few months old. It is now riven with disputes and riddled with corruption. As is to be expected, every faction was supposed to be and so obviously has not become.

German

Outsider's splits Spain

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# German neo-nazis grab votes in east

Ian Traynor in Bonn

**G**ERMANY'S racist rightwing People's Union stunned Bonn last night by coming from nowhere to take almost 13 per cent of the vote in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt in an election that struck a strong blow against Helmut Kohl.

The opposition Social Democrats of Gerhard Schröder were boosted in their campaign to unseat Mr Kohl, running for a record fifth term as German chancellor in September's general election, by emerging as the clear winner with 57 per cent according to early projections, 15 points ahead of Mr Kohl's Christian Democrats.

But Mr Schröder's SPD won considerably fewer votes than suggested by the opinion polls, while the neo-nazi gains corresponded roughly with the Christian Democrat losses. The Greens, part of the

outgoing government, failed to surmount the 5 per cent barrier for entry to the parliament, as did the liberal Free Democrats, in government in Bonn.

The state election, seen as a strong pointer to the national poll in five months, could trigger a fresh bout of infighting within the Bonn government over Mr Kohl's candidacy. The chancellor sought to defuse any such talk on the eve of the election by stating that "the election result is one thing, the general election is something else".

But the grumbling over Mr Kohl's leadership continued last night. "This is a heavy defeat for the Christian Democrats," conceded Jürgen Scharf, the CDU parliamentary leader in the state capital of Magdeburg. "It gives us all a lot to think about."

The SPD prime minister of the state, Reinhard Höppner, hailed the "very clear margin" of victory and blamed Mr Kohl for the extreme

## Xenophobic campaign bears fruit

**T**HE election posters plastered over Magdeburg last week screamed "Foreign criminals out" and "German money for German jobs", as the extreme right German People's Union (DVU) launched its campaign to tap the xenophobia caused by mass unemployment across Saxony-Anhalt, writes Ian Traynor.

As a result of a campaign costing more than those of the big parties, the millionaire rightwing publisher and DVU chief, Gerhard Frey, surpassed his wildest hopes last night. Opinion polls had suggested the DVU might scrape into the state parliament with just over the 5 per cent necessary. But they were wide of the mark. Mr Frey's party took

a projected 12.6 per cent share of the vote, benefitting from widespread disenchantment with Helmut Kohl's government. Mr Frey, a Munich publisher who has made millions from disseminating extreme rightwing material, is a champion of other extreme nationalists, from Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in Russia to Jean-Marie Le Pen in France.

The 12 seats he gained in the 99-seat state parliament were the first seats for the extreme right in an east German parliament since unification in 1990. Last year the DVU just missed entering the Hamburg parliament while, in the early 1990s, it made it briefly into the Schleswig-Holstein and Bremen parliaments. All three assemblies are in western Germany.

have to know that they are guests in our country. And if they don't want to be a guest, they can just get out," Mr Kohl told a rally in Magdeburg.

The same day the latest figures on racist violence recorded a 25 per cent increase country-wide last year, while extreme right offences soared 34 per cent to 11,720.

"A lot of the young people are voting for the far right because although half of the foreigners are okay, the other half are criminals," said a retired Social Democrat supporter.

1994 and the party had been tipped to do much better. Last night it appeared that the Social Democrats would be left four seats short of an absolute majority in the 99-seat state parliament.

Last night's outcome supported the contention that Mr Kohl, who won his two last elections on the back of widespread support in eastern Germany, was on his way to losing the east.

In another election yesterday, for the mayor of Leipzig, the east's second city, the CDU candidate did not even make it to the run-off. The candidate came in third with 20 per cent two weeks ago.

In the neighbouring state of Brandenburg, the CDU is polling a wretched 15 per cent. In its capital, Potsdam, the party is in single figures.

"It will be very hard to win [in September]. All over the east, our message is not getting across to the voters," admitted Jürgen Witkowski, a Magdeburg CDU official.

## Outsider's surprise win splits Spain's socialists

Adela Goode in Madrid

**S**PAIN'S socialists are struggling to heal divisions after a populist lone wolf challenger dethroned the party leader in primaries held to choose their candidate to be prime minister at the next general election.

Josep Borrell, aged 51, a baker's son from Catalonia with a sharp tongue and even sharper mind, defeated the favourite, Joaquín Almunia, aged 45, a sober Basque lawyer who has led the party since June.

The victory of Mr Borrell, who attracted 55 per cent of the votes and won by 10 percentage points, shocked socialist leaders who had followed the dictates of the former prime minister, Felipe González, and thrown their weight behind Mr Almunia.

Mr Almunia took over last summer after Mr González, who was prime minister for 13 years to 1986 and party leader for 23, resigned suddenly. But his reassuring, undogmatic style failed to inspire and move him out of Mr González's shadow.

It was Mr Almunia who decided to introduce the primary system — the first time it has operated in Spain — to try to consolidate his leader-

ship and quash suggestions that he might be holding the fort for a González comeback. The measure backfired. Ordinary socialists warmed to Mr Borrell's message that it was time to move on from the González era, which ended in a quagmire of political and financial corruption that cost them the last election.

To the strains of the Tina Turner song Simply the Best, Mr Borrell, a natty dresser with a strong belief in his own abilities, toured the country while fighting the party machine's attempt to obstruct him.

After his victory was announced on Friday, he tried to avert a split by urging his opponent to stay on as party secretary-general. Mr Almunia resigned the next day but was persuaded to stay on at least until next month.

Political analysts agreed Mr Borrell's victory might lead to a period of confusion and bloodletting. But they thought the public had viewed the primary system as a democratic move, and this had given the socialists a fresh lease of life.

Mr Borrell could become a spirited leader who might pose a formidable challenge to the sober conservative prime minister, José María Aznar. A snap poll published

in the daily El País yesterday put Mr Borrell 10 percentage points ahead of Mr Aznar.

Mr Borrell, a scholarship boy from a small village in Catalonia who went on to acquire a degree in engineering, a doctorate in economics and a master's from Stanford University in the United States, describes himself as being "in the centre of the left". Although he served under Mr González as a junior finance minister and then as minister for public works, he was never close to the former prime minister.

Mr Borrell's spark of ideological passion has led to suggestions he may shift the party to the left. Mr Borrell stresses his commitment to social democracy, arguing: "I am not a dangerous leftwinger."

On policy, the Spanish press has compared Mr Borrell to the French prime minister Lionel Jospin, while likening Mr Almunia to Tony Blair. Both Spanish politicians have rejected the links, arguing Spanish socialism has its own traditions. The Spanish left has usually taken its lead from France and shown a residual anti-Americanism. Yet Mr Blair has made a strong impression in Spain and Mr Borrell will want to emulate his image as the dynamic, updated face of socialism.



Activists dressed as radioactive isotopes (above) march in Minsk, Belarus, to mark the 12th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear explosion. A widow (below) visits a monument in Kiev listing the names of workers who died as they tried to contain the disaster. PHOTOGRAPHS: SERGEI GRITS, SERGEI SUPINSKY

## Clinton and accuser pass like ships in the night

Martin Kettle in Washington

**P**AULA Jones and Bill Clinton were together in the same room again on Saturday night. But this time there was no dispute about what happened at the 84th White House Correspondents Association Dinner at the Washington Hilton.

The United States president and Ms Jones, who accuses him of sexual harassment, ignored each other, and 2,600 witnesses and several television crews were on hand to prove it.

Less than two weeks after Ms Jones's lawyers said she would refrain from anti-Clinton publicity stunts and focus instead on the legal aspects of her charges against him, she turned in a vintage performance for the media.

Ms Jones, who said recently that she could not bear to watch Mr Clinton on television because it upset her too much, arrived at the hotel in a limousine and smiled for photographers.

Ms Jones was a guest of Insight magazine, a right-wing publication owned by the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. Arriving with her husband Stephen and her minder, Susan Carpenter McMillan, she was hooded by other guests before being escorted by bodyguards to a table in the recesses of the ballroom.

Bob Schieffer, a veteran



Bill Clinton and Paula Jones ignored each other at the annual White House correspondents' dinner. Ms Jones said recently it upset her even to see the president — whom she accuses of sexual harassment — on television

political commentator for CBS television, said Ms Jones's appearance at the dinner "set a new standard in incredible bad taste".

As guest of honour, Mr Clinton upheld tradition by mocking the media.

"This is the night I get to poke fun at you. This is my definition of 'executive privilege,'" he said. He added that he had barely read the newspapers since the Pope's visit to Cuba in January — which was upstaged by the scandal surrounding the president's alleged relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. "What have you been writing about since then?" he asked.

Film stars Sharon Stone, Michael Douglas, Annette Bening, Warren Beatty and Richard Dreyfuss were among the celebrities who hobnobbed with politicians and media figures.

Ms Lewinsky had several invitations to the annual dinner, but turned them all down. Her lawyer William Ginsburg said: "It would be tasteless for us to attend."

Hillary Clinton arrived after giving a further five hours of videotaped testimony to the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, about her role in the Whitewater land deal. It was the First Lady's sixth interrogation by Mr Starr's team since 1994.

In a separate development, a former Miss America who says she had a one-night stand with Mr Clinton in 1983, when he was governor of Arkansas, has apologised to the president's wife.

Elizabeth Ward Gracen told NBC television: "What I did was wrong, and I feel very, very bad about it now. My behaviour was inappropriate."

Ms Gracen, who is trying to avoid being served with a subpoena by Mr Starr, said the sex was consensual.

## Few turn out to honour victims of Chernobyl

Chris Bird in Slavutich

**O**NLY about 200 Ukrainians turned up early yesterday morning to light candles in remembrance of those killed when the Chernobyl nuclear power station exploded 12 years ago.

A priest led them in prayers for those who died from huge doses of radiation after Chernobyl's fourth reactor blew up on April 26, 1986.

Ukraine's health ministry says more than 3,500 people died after the disaster but other organisations say the figure is higher.

Slavutich, a dormitory town built north of Kiev to house Chernobyl workers who had to abandon their homes because of radioactive contamination was hushed apart from the mourners.

The explosion released a radioactive cloud that poisoned 40,000 square miles of territory in Ukraine and Belarus. But the small turnout in Slavutich suggested that Ukrainians are starting to forget the disaster.

Ukraine is pushing ahead to expand its use of nuclear energy, and is eager to finish building two new reactors in the west of the country. — Reuters.



## Wife claims husband's seat for National Front

Jon Hanley in Paris

**T**HE fearsomely well-groomed wife of the only member of parliament for France's anti-foreigner National Front claimed yesterday that her husband's seat was barred for exceeding spending limits. She won, and became France's fourth National Front mayor.

Mr Le Chevallier, a senior figure in the party which overturned the traditional order of French politics with its strong performance in last month's regional elections, collected 63 per cent of the vote in June and most analysts expect his wife to do equally well.

Toulon has been rocked by scandals since the Le Chevalliers took over the town hall in 1995. The most recent involved claims by an Algerian immigrant, Dalila El-Hache, that she was not allowed to bury her mother in a municipal cemetery as "it was reserved for true French people".

reputedly more hardline than her husband.

Husband-and-wife teams are not new to the far-right front: Bruno Mégret, its deputy leader, persuaded his wife Catherine, to stand in local elections last year when he was barred for exceeding spending limits. She won, and became France's fourth National Front mayor.

Like other National Front mayors, they have slashed municipal spending on "unsound" youth clubs, removed leftwing publications from town libraries and halted special school meals for Muslim and Jewish children. They have withdrawn subsidies for "non-French" musicians and for support groups for AIDS patients and drug addicts.

"They run a very, very efficient machine," admitted Mrs Le Chevallier's Socialist opponent, Odette Casanova. "They have a lot of support in this town and have not made any big mistakes. Somehow, people are not afraid of them."

## Cook urges EU to soothe Turks

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

**B**ITAIN is today urging its European Union partners to make a renewed effort to patch up relations with Turkey, which is still furious at being excluded from the next wave of EU membership.

At a meeting of EU foreign ministers Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will try to overcome Greek opposition to the EU holding a long-delayed formal meeting with the Turks at the end of May.

Officials admit it is unlikely that — even if Mr Cook talks Athens into agreeing to such a meeting — he will be able to persuade Greece to lift the block it has put on payment by Brussels of millions of pounds owed to Turkey under the EU customs union.

This month Tony Blair wrote to the Turkish prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, urging him to accept the sincer-

ity of attempts to clear the air between Ankara and the union. "We want the Turks to see that notwithstanding their disappointment there is a process that recognises their importance to the EU," a senior British official said.

Austria signalled that it would continue attempts to mend fences when it takes over the EU presidency on July 1. "Turkey is an integral part of Europe and must be treated like the other candidate states and judged on the same objective conditions," the foreign minister, Wolfgang Schäussel, said.

Troubled relations worsened after December's Luxembourg summit invited Cyprus, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Estonia to begin talks on membership. Britain then invited all aspirants to last month's "European Conference" in London. Turkey boycotted the event when it was excluded even from the second tier of hopefuls.

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## Mr Hague's tricky year

### He must start opposing

IT'S NOT just Tony Blair's anniversary. The May 1 landslide changed the lives of William Hague and Paddy Ashdown, too. All three men will be engaged in some careful reflection this week, but our own efforts will start with Mr Hague.

The Conservative leader can be forgiven for harbouring mixed feelings. In a single move, the 1997 election handed his party the biggest rejection in modern political history while handing him the greatest opportunity of his career. The year that has passed since probably stirs equal ambivalence. He can be satisfied that the Conservatives have at last undertaken a process of internal reform. Now there will be a single Conservative Party — an entity that did not legally exist before — with members granted some say in their choice of leader. Efficiency rather than genuine democracy has probably been the result with the added benefit of strengthening Mr Hague's own position, making him much less vulnerable to the backbench challenges of old.

The leader can also draw comfort from his admittedly infrequent attempts to suggest a Conservative Party of the future: still fiscally conservative, but socially more liberal. There were hints of it in the "caring Conservatism" speech at Blackpool last October, but it's been on display elsewhere too — including some of those episodes condemned at the time as either naïf or gaffe. When Mr Hague showed his face at the Notting Hill Carnival, or announced he would share a room with his girlfriend before marriage, or revealed that a good walk in the Dales was more spiritually uplifting than a visit to church, he suggested a new kind of Conservative leader — one more in tune with the country Britain has become.

For all that, William Hague has more to regret than to celebrate. He may glimpse a kinder, gentler Conservatism, but his party hardly seems to have made the shift with him. With their continued Euro-bashing and Little Englander carping about devolution, too many Tories seem deaf to the message of last May. Before the election, some Conservatives whispered that a spell in opposition might do them good: they would have a chance for serious debate and fresh thinking. So far there are all too few signs of that. Instead, the party still looks

bewildered by defeat. They have landed almost no straight punches on Labour, proving themselves to be as incompetent in opposition as they were in government. Mr Hague himself has performed well in Question Time, but his MPs have been almost marginal to the national debate. The absence of Andrew Mackay, supposedly the shadow Northern Ireland secretary, in the crucial days leading up to the Good Friday agreement was only the most pointed illustration of the malaise.

William Hague may have a sound long-term vision of his party and a good organisational head, but he has to prove himself in the one job he has already — as leader of the opposition. If he fails in that task, then this will have been not just an unhappy year for the Conservatives, but the start of a long, miserable decade.

## Kosovo on brink

### World must prepare to intervene

THE MARCH towards disaster in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo is gathering pace, and the international Contact Group will have a hard job to stop it when its officials confer in Rome on Wednesday.

In spite of tighter sanctions, the Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic, has stepped up his brinkmanship since the Group met last month.

He held a referendum last week to give himself an overwhelming mandate to reject foreign mediation in the talks. Although outside mediation has proved useful in scores of other conflicts from Palestine and Northern Ireland to Angola and Cambodia, Milosevic insists on presenting it as an affront to sovereignty. Instead of withdrawing the paramilitary Serb police from Kosovo — as the Contact Group demanded — he has sent Yugoslav troops to the border area with Albania to raid villages peopled by Kosovo Albanians.

For their part, the Kosovo Albanians who form 90 per cent of the province's population are increasingly turning to military activity. The so-called Liberation Army which began as a lightly armed partisan force defending its villages is getting heavier weapons from Albania and turning into an offensive force. The danger of mafia activity which looted and destroyed scores of towns in Albania proper last year now threatens to move into western Kosovo. The pickings would be high since towns such as Prizren and Pec are more affluent than anything Albania used to have.

Faced with this grim scenario, the consensus in the Contact Group seems to be moving away from further sanctions on Yugoslavia towards a more comprehensive package of carrots and sticks. One factor is the need to protect the vulnerable small Yugoslav republic of Montenegro, which has a new leader who is more sympathetic to the Western line. Giving Milosevic incentives as well as punishments is acceptable if it is part of a clearly defined package of steps. In return for a phasing out of sanctions Belgrade must be required to make a genuine offer of autonomy and not exclude discussion of a new constitutional status for Kosovo and withdraw his forces. At the same time the Kosovo Albanians must be urged to join talks without preconditions and accept a freeze on weapons coming in.

But the outside world must also prepare for intervention if only on humanitarian grounds. Nato's recent missions to Albania to assess that country's security should only be the first step in a programme which will require the deployment of troops. As the international force continues to wind down in Bosnia this summer, some of its troops should be sent to Albania and Macedonia to help to pre-empt what otherwise could be another looming bloodbath in Europe.

## Letters to the Editor

### Atheists and organists

DERMOT Morgan (Catholic Cleric Father Ted still causing controversy, April 23) was a committed atheist with the courage to challenge the absurdities of his country's Church. It was inappropriate for people from that Church to intrude themselves into his funeral, making it look as if he hadn't rejected them and all their works. Perhaps William Burroughs's maxim "Never let a priest near you when you're dying" should be broadened to "and don't let one near me after death".  
Peter Carr,  
Gloucester, Ross-Shire.

NOTHING new in the allegations at Westminster (Queen embroiled in cash scandal after Dean seats, Abbey organist, April 23). In 1889, for the coronation of William and Mary, Henry Purcell, then abbey organist, took money from spectators whom he admitted to the great organ loft. The Dean gave him two days to hand it over or be fired. He complied.  
Michael Browning,  
Harpenden, Herts.

WHEN comparing the difficulties of bowel screening and other types of screening the Department of Health spokesman is reported to have said: "To test for it properly is quite invasive. It is not like a mammogram or a cervical smear." (Move to screen high risk groups for bowel cancer, April 22). Just where does he think the cervix is?  
Mary Burden,  
Leicester.

GIVEN your Pass Notes on Redcar (April 23) it might have been appropriate on World Book Day to have celebrated its literary associations. These include Gertrude Bell, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Ford Madox Ford. Jane Gardam's wonderful early books recall her childhood there. And isn't your own Simon Hoggart a native?  
Alan Myers,  
Hitchin, Herts.

HAVE been to Benidorm many times and to Redcar once. I can assure you that the only similarity is that the residents of neither resort speak English.  
B Emmerson,  
Selby, N Yorks.

## Ways to make CSA work

WHILE it is hardly surprising that most single mothers are not complying with the CSA's demands to give the name of the fathers of their kids (More women shun baffling CSA, April 21; Polly Toynbee, April 23), I find it disturbing that campaigning groups are recommending that they say they fear violence — even when it is unlikely. Lying about violence will mean that many women who really are in that situation may come under more suspicion and official hassle. When I got the forms from the CSA, I noticed that not only violence but "undue distress" was a possible reason to not authorise them to chase the father. I did not want to accuse the father of my child of violence. I'd never experienced, and was afraid that such an accusation might compromise him unfairly in the future. The case I made was that the father would withdraw the childcare he was (and still is) giving if he had to pay CSA-regulated maintenance, thus damaging his relationship with my child and my ability to work — worth far more than whatever money the CSA might deem him liable to give. To disturb our arrangements would, in my book,

cause everyone "undue distress". The CSA agreed, although time spent by fathers with their children does not seem to appear in their calculations for maintenance. It should. In my experience the time the father spends looking after our child has been crucial to my sanity and ability to do other things; his sanity and involvement in our child's upbringing, and most importantly, our child's happiness. Mothers should be given help to pursue fathers for money or time when they feel they need it. More than any new formula, this would cut down on the CSA's workload. Many ex-couples are capable of — and do — make amicable arrangements, and the government should respect these. Name and address supplied.

THE existing CSA formula is elaborate because it seeks to be fair, but it is wrong to suggest that it is Byzantine in its complexity. The calculation is no more complex than income tax. However, the CSA does not possess the appropriate skills. Much of the information required by the CSA is already collected by the Inland Revenue which also possess the expertise to carry out the calculations. Why not give the task of collecting maintenance to a special department of the Inland Revenue service? That way, payment dodgers would find it much more difficult to hide their income.  
J E Hill,  
Guisborough.

IS IT possible that we can at last think about replacement for the CSA based on evidence and not on moralising about what family life ought to look like? Many studies (including ours) have found that most lone mothers would work given the prospect of adequate, secure income and appropriate, reliable childcare. And Polly Toynbee echoed our conclusion that paying lone mothers on benefits a proportion of the maintenance collected by the CSA would remove the sense of injustice which is shared by many separated parents of both genders and contribute to improved living standards for the poorest mothers and children.

Rather than (usually unsuccessful) concentrating on chastising lone mothers, "won't payers" would it not make more sense to amend legislation to respond to the known wishes of those many "don't payers" who otherwise would co-operate with the agency?  
Prof Gary Craig,  
Humberdale University, Hull.

## Executions will not bring peace

IN HER call for the execution of those suspected of genocide in Rwanda (Shoot the lot of them, April 24) Victoria Brittain refers to "mistakes and apparent partiality in [Amnesty International's] reports on Rwanda" and claims that "the accused have had lawyers and appeals wherever possible". In fact, more than half of those tried in 1997 did not have access to legal representation. Defence witnesses were frequently intimidated or prevented from testifying. Although many of the 130,000 people presently detained for genocide in Rwanda are no doubt guilty, others have been arbitrarily arrested on the basis of little or no evidence, and these include critics of the government.

Fidelis Makombe, the prosecutor at Kibuye, was beaten up by soldiers last May when he

refused to arrest people in the absence of evidence. One of those executed on Friday, Silas Munyagishali, was himself an assistant prosecutor at Kigali who had complained about judicial irregularities. At his trial defence witnesses were threatened.

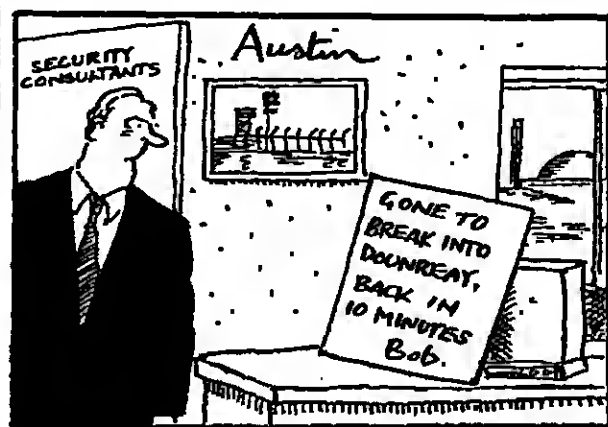
It is vitally important to draw attention to the abuses still being committed by armed opposition groups against unarmed civilians in north-west Rwanda, but Ms Brittain fails to acknowledge the equally grave abuses being committed in the same area by government forces.

We are campaigning to bring those responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda to justice, but last week's executions set back the chance of real peace and reconciliation.  
Mark Lattimer,  
Communications director,  
Amnesty International UK.

WHETHER or not the international bodies have been consistent on Rwanda is not the question. What is worrying is whether the Rwandan leaders are setting the right tone for national reconciliation and whether the condemned men had a fair trial.

It has often been said the present Rwandan government is made up of literate, thoughtful men. I hope these leaders will be aware of how, in the name of justice, many regimes committed acts of unimaginable savagery.  
Sonja Jambira,  
London.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address or truncated address is supplied; please include a full postal address and day-time telephone number. We may edit letters for clarity and brevity. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used. The Country Diary is on Page 10.



## End exclusions merry-go-round

FOR 10 years I have served on the governors' committee of a secondary school which reviews the behaviour of pupils. The cost of exclusions (£80m cost of unruly pupils, April 31) must be a matter of some concern, but what should be of greater concern is the expenditure that goes to provide anything to meet the needs of excluded pupils. Excluded pupils are often violent and disruptive to the education of other children, and have exhausted all the strategies of a caring school. They have often had a history of family turmoil and a lack of personal achievement, and inflict their misery on other children. It is sad when a school has to permanently exclude any child. It is even more demoralising when little, if anything, is done for that child, and entirely predictable that he (it is mostly boys) may go on to commit more crimes because of lack of remedial attention.

One of the measures suggested by the New Policy Institute is to set up a panel of local business people, school governors and the police to decide on exclusions. What evidence or first-hand experience of how to manage errant school behaviour would such a panel have? More meetings, more costly reports are the last things needed. These children often have files inches thick dating from their primary schools. Head teachers do not exclude "in isolation" and the only pressure they are under is the welfare and education of the majority of their pupils. But the most outrageous aspect of this report is that it calls for "schools to be made to accept excluded pupils from other schools". This has operated for years. A school cannot refuse to accept any pupil if it has spare places. This means more children are subjected to disruption.

The root problem is covered up until school leaving age, when it is passed on to society at large. Is this the best that the New Policy Institute can come up with — to put these sad children on a merry-go-round of exclusions?  
Irene Machin,  
Stockton-on-Tees.

JAMES Campbell contrasts the politically engaged bohemianism of Lawrence Ferlinghetti (The old man of the Beat, April 16) with Jack Kerouac's alleged philosophy of "kicks, joy, and wow!" — probably derived from "Youth in search of sex and kicks" on the cover of early editions of On The Road. Kerouac's definition of beatness related it to beatification. His spirituality is shared by Ferlinghetti, whose poetry calls for "a rebirth of wonder".  
Michael Horowitz,  
London.

## Bum race rap

YOUR leader (April 23) repeated the old charge of racism against Eric Pound and T S Eliot. In the case of Pound this is particularly unjust as his greatest work, The Cantos, is an epic creating a unity out of the best in the civilisations of east and west. "For the little light and more harmony" (Oh God of all men, none excluded) (Canto 113).  
William Cookson,  
Editor, Agenda, London.

## Dounreay denies danger, but should we return all waste?

GEORGE Monbiot's article (Bomb cowardice, April 23) was inaccurate and likely to cause needless concern. To deal with just some of the points. To state Dounreay is the most dangerous plant outside the former eastern bloc is simply not true. Dounreay operates under a licensing regime recognised to be among the most stringent in the world. The claim that the UKAEA was "forced to reveal" the existence of the intermediate level waste shaft last year is astonishing. The shaft was licensed for use in the late 1950s. Reports on the shaft have appeared in the local, Scottish, and national press ever since. Regular reports are made to the local community and to our regulators as a condition of our nuclear site licence. Government advisory committees such as RWMAC and Comare have also studied the shaft and published reports. The second "hole" presumably refers to the wet still which is a waste facility licensed for use by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. Dr Roy Nelson, Dounreay director, Caithness.

YOU say (Blair defends uranium deal, April 23) that "unlike Britain, France has legislation barring the import of irradiated nuclear material". In fact the French company Cogema has got massive contracts to import irradiated spent nuclear fuel for reprocessing at its plant at La Hague in Normandy.

Cogema has orders to reprocess 8,150 tonnes of fuel from Germany, Japan, Belgium, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. As of March 1, 7,105 tonnes had been treated. In addition France has about 1,900 tonnes of irradiated fuel from Spain to treat at its reprocessing plant at Marcoule.

Energy minister John Birt said on February 9 that since 1990 BNFL had imported 1,700 tonnes of spent (irradiated) nuclear fuel for reprocessing at Sellafield; whilst the UK Atomic Energy Authority had received some 4,000 tonnes for Dounreay.

What does distinguish France from the UK is a 1981 law that prohibits the retention of foreign reprocessing wastes, requiring their timely repatriation. In the UK there is no such law; instead we have a ministerial commitment, first enunciated by Tony Benn as energy minister in March 1976 and repeated by successive administrations.

Whether any reprocessing waste is ever sent back to its country of origin is a moot point. But what we lack — as Tony Benn said in Parliament last Wednesday — is parliamentary scrutiny of these deals, because they are not being conducted under an act of parliament, rather by ministerial fiat. A radical new policy is evidently required.  
Dr David Lowry,  
Stoneleigh, Surrey.

## Pause for thought

### David McKie

THE ECONOMIST magazine is running a poster campaign with the message: "Silence is golden, except when it follows an awkward question." The implication is that if you take the Economist, you furnish yourself with such spiffing information on every conceivable question that you're never stuck for an answer. But I think the proposition is wrong. In any sane organi-

sation, it's precisely when you are faced with an awkward question that silence is at its most golden: the silence which gives you time to think before you're required to speak, instead of just blurting out the first three thoughts which come prancing into your head. What's wrong is not the practice of silence, but the fact that today's high-speed all-action world regards a moment of silence in the face of an awkward question as hopelessly whimsical. I thought of the Economist when I listened eight days ago to the first of BBC Radio's new Sunday morning news and analysis programmes, Broadcasting House. In a brave departure from normal practice, they'd chosen a panel of experts only one of whom was a regular fount of media opinion. The other two were all too clearly untrained in the world of rapid response. They paused before they replied, trying to balance their answers. Radio critics were

scathing about the show: so slow, they said, so unentertaining. It used to be understood that certain eminent people preferred not to speak at all unless or until they had something useful to say. I read the other day of some fearfully eminent Victorian sage who, when some taxing question was put to him in his drawing room, would show no sign at all that he'd heard it, until 20 minutes or half an hour later, when the room was busy on something else, he would give his considered answer. He was certainly not alone in such practices. One famous apostle of silence was Benjamin Jowett, Master of Balliol College, Oxford. Though in groups of congenial friends he could be quite garrulous, he was at other times capable of silences amounting almost to cruelty. One of his biographers records an occasion when an undergraduate invited to breakfast was treated, as such visitors frequently were, to an epic Jowettian

silence. Eventually the student could bear it no longer. "What a fine day it is!" he ventured. Jowett said nothing whatever until his guest rose to leave. Then he said only: "That was a very foolish observation of yours." JOWETT could not stand small talk. Though a politician, Gladstone too had little patience with conversation for conversation's sake. Jocularly, it was said, died in his presence. In his wonderful book As We Were, E F Benson recalls how a woman admirer seated herself next to Tenyson, but was so overwhelmed by his presence that she found herself unable to speak. For a long while the bard remained silent. Then at last he spoke. "Your stays creak," he said. Later that afternoon he came to apologise. "I beg your pardon," he said, "it was my braces." But her heart was already broken. In Jowett's case, silence

had something to do with it too. He was also perhaps respectful of the Bible's many injunctions to keep one's promiscuous tongue under restraint. There is a time to keep silence, and a time to speak (Ecclesiastes). God is in his heaven, and there upon earth: therefore let thy words be few (ditto). The Guardian for many years now has invited eminent people to talk to its staff on a Tuesday morning, few of whom have ever been stuck for an instant opinion. We once entertained Cardinal Hume. The first question put to him evoked not the usual torrent of words but a silence. We looked at each other and fidgeted. After what felt like an aeon, he spoke; and the wait had been worth it. He had done us the honour of thinking about the question and deciding his answer before he began to speak. The pauses continued throughout: he left at the end in a great warm bath of respect.

These are not the kind of responses favoured by media producers. I've been trying all week to devise some production device which would allow studio guests a moment's reflection. And for television I think I have found one. When my computer is asked to perform some function which takes a moment or two, its cursor changes into an hourglass. "It's thinking," my wife explained the first time this happened. They could use the hourglass symbol on television. "Daddy, why has that man's face got an hourglass in front of it?" "Hush, child; it's a sign of a pundit thinking before he speaks. Mark it well; you may never see that again." Radio is rather more difficult. A ticking metronome is suggested; but that might only emphasise the time you are having to wait. Still — better that than some arbitrary snatch of Vivaldi.

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# 10 OBITUARIES

Jean-François Lyotard

## Narrator of postmodernism

Jean-François Lyotard, who has died aged 73, will be remembered in the English-speaking world for his account of the "postmodern condition" he believed we inhabit. Ironically, this passionate opponent of systematic, overarching, explanatory theories — "grand narratives", as he called them — only took up this position after some 30 years of engagement with the two most influential grand narratives of our century, Marxism and psychoanalysis.

Lyotard was born in Versailles. At the end of the second world war he went to the Sorbonne, where he studied philosophy. There he was drawn to phenomenology, the dominant philosophical school of the period associated with Jean-Paul Sartre and Maurice Merleau-Ponty. After toying with the idea of becoming a Dominican priest, he spent 10 years working as a philosophy teacher in secondary schools.

One of his first jobs was in a lycée in the Algerian town of Constantine. Alarmed at radicalism, he joined the French and Lyotard took sides against his country. On his return to France in 1956, he joined the editorial board of *Les Temps Modernes*, a periodical produced by young intellectuals sympathetic to

Marxism. Most of his writing of that time appeared here. A key preoccupation of the journal was with the Soviet bureaucracy's use of Marxism to suppress the political freedoms of those it claimed to champion.

Many years later, in his work on postmodernism, Lyotard would make a similar claim about the way western multinational companies appealed to "science" and "efficiency" to justify their control over economic life.

By 1963, Lyotard had come to feel that Socialism or Marxism was too removed from political activity and he resigned, spending the next two years as a member of *Pouvoir Ouvrier* (Workers' Power), a revolutionary socialist organisation. But it was Socialism or Marxism that had the more enduring influence on Lyotard's work.

The distinctive feature of the group, and its theoretical strength, was not its Marxism but its interest in the critical potential of psychoanalysis, a theme that became central to Lyotard's thought. Among the group's most prominent members were the psychoanalysts Jean Laplanche and Cornelius Castoriadis.

In May 1978, Lyotard, officially employed on the wrong side of the barricades as a university lecturer at Nanterre, belonged to *Le Mouvement du 22 mars*, a spontane-

ous anti-authoritarian group. "The movement of '68", he later wrote, "seemed to us to do and say on a grand scale what we had sketched out in words and actions in miniature."

His works in the 1970s applied ideas borrowed from Marxism and psychoanalysis to the study of avant-garde art. The avant-garde, he claimed, tapped the unconscious mind, subverting the values of bourgeois society by affirming the primacy of desire. Lyotard was especially interested in the way the visual arts achieved this. In *Discourse/Figure* (1971) he developed the notion of the "figural": that aspect of a work whose meaning and effect, unlike its discursive aspects, cannot be generated from a set of rules such as those that generate linguistic meaning.

This idea was a shot across the bows of the structuralism prevailing in France at that time which sought precisely to extend the model of linguistic structure to works of art and social phenomena. It marked Lyotard out as an early post-structuralist. But it was consistent with all of his work thereafter.

In May 1978, Lyotard published his most widely-read work, *The Postmodern Condition*. This controversial book came into being as a commissioned report for the government of



Against grand schemes of history... Lyotard

people play by its rules. Narrative, rather than reality, becomes the source of all value and truth.

These claims, and most especially the rejection of truth, doomed Lyotard in the eyes of many Anglo-American philosophers. At the same time *The Postmodern Condition* brought him a new following among sociologists, adding to the influence his work had already had on literary and aesthetic criticism. A string of appointments at prestigious American universities followed. For all that, *The Postmodern Condition* was an interruption. In the 1980s,

Lyotard returned to consider avant-garde art, and developed new ideas on the language of justice. Among his most recent work was a biography of André Malraux. The effort to capture the subversive potential of artistic creativity remained the hallmark of his work to the end.

He is survived by his wife, Dolores, a son and two daughters.

Neil Vickers

Jean-François Lyotard, philosopher, born August 10, 1924; died April 21, 1998

Joan Heal

## Glittering age of revues

HAS it ever been decided just how much our theatre lost when it said goodbye to intimate revue and small-scale musical comedy? Joan Heal, who has died aged 75, was a queen of both.

In an era when anything goes it is hard to convey the sense of mischievous fun in getting something past the censor, or furtively mocking public figures or institutions, that thrived in the postwar heyday of what passed for satirical wit and social satire. Joan Heal had the best of it, and yet, after nearly two decades of sharp, stylish and often intelligently frivolous song-and-dance, she turned fearlessly legitimate.

She was born in Somerset, educated at Bath High School, and, determined to make a career in the theatre, trained at the Old Vic School, the London Mask Theatre School and at the Buddy Bradley School of Dancing.

Having hoofed in the West End with such legends as Jessie Matthews, Jack and Claude Hulbert, and Bobby Howes, when talents like Ian Carmichael, Dora Bryan and Beryl Reid were finding their feet, Heal plunged into Shakespeare, Shaw, Farquhar, Brecht, Calderon and Euripides. It was very disturbing for admirers, and not always pleasing.

Her bloodthirsty Agave was a bit of a laugh at Hampstead in *The Disorderly Women* (1970), although she thrived, as you might expect, in Restoration comedy and in Shakespeare, as Katharine in *The Taming of the Shrew* at Nottingham in 1961-62 and as Mrs Squeezum in *Lock Up Your Daughters* at Bristol.

The 1960s and 1970s brought distinction for this repertory theatre. So it was no shame for an actress of her class to act in the provinces. There were also modern authors to interest her, such as Harold Pinter, James Saunders and Donald Houghton (at the Royal Court); and Alan Sillitoe, in the stage premiere of whose *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* she returned to the West End in 1966.

The point is that all those 1960s West End revues such as the *Lyric Revue*, the *Globe*

*Revue and Intimacy* at 8.30 gave her the timing and technique that serve a player on all occasions.

In her prime, on the Lyric stage in Hammersmith, west London, Heal gave perhaps the widest pleasure, especially in the Julian More show, *Grab Me A Conductor* (1956), which turned her into a star. She played the cliché — a film festival starlet who aspired, at any rate in interviews, to be a serious dramatic actress. Even today, some of us can still hum nostalgically the number, *Croonin' for the Aeon*.

At the end of the show's run, she went to the Bristol Old Vic in the part that Bernard Shaw wrote for Ellen Terry, Lady Cecily in *Capitain Brassbound's Conversion*. Not that musical comedies, or revues, were put entirely behind her. There was Rattigan's disastrous musical, *Joie de Vivre*, and her fairy god-mother in *Chatterbox* at the Adelphi. In 1961, she backed in the West End with Beryl Reid in the revue, *On The Avenue*. She also played Madame K in *Divorce Me, Darling* (1965), Sandy Wilson's sequel to *The Boyfriend*, and a tribute to Cole Porter, *The Decline and Fall of the Empire World* (1968).

Six years later, she was involved in that early, joyous portent of a new wave in English musicals, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* at the Young Vic, in which she lit up the stage both as Leah and Potiphar's wife.

Sandy Wilson summed her up with typical shrewdness and sensibility. "In a theatre where style, wit and charm still counted, Joan Heal was supreme." Much virtue in that still. And what a training ground was lost when revue disappeared.

She was twice married and divorced, first to the revue actor Jeremy Hawk and later to David Conyers. She had a daughter from the first marriage and a son from the second.

Eric Shorter

Joan Heal, actress and singer, born October 17, 1922; died April 12, 1998



Sparkling wit... revue taught Joan Heal the technique that served her through a varied career PHOTOGRAPH BY ANTHONY BUCKLEY

Michael Weitzman

## Speaking in tongues

THE brilliant biblical scholar, Michael Weitzman, who has died aged 51 after a thrombosis, was the personification of the Hebrew. He was a philologist of semitic languages, among them Syriac, Aramaic and biblical Hebrew. His mastery of various languages astonished his colleagues. He was fluent in French, German, Italian, Spanish and modern Hebrew.

He had a phenomenal memory. He knew by heart most, if not all, the five books of Moses, which he read to his fellow congregants at the Stanmore United Synagogue. It was a remarkable experience

to watch him mouth the words of the Torah without a book, simultaneously and sometimes slightly ahead of the text being recited.

Michael was fascinated by the evolution of the Hebrew language, its vast literature and the translations into other tongues following the destruction of the Second Temple, the Jewish dispersion and the rise of Christianity. He displayed remarkable ingenuity in his use of computer analysis in testing biblical texts, deducing significant information from the frequency of certain words.

He inhibited his knowledge

of Hebrew from his father, Adrian, a teacher, and with his encouragement passed a classical Hebrew O-level at the age of nine, at the Jewish Hasmonian grammar school. Winning a scholarship to St John's College, Cambridge, he graduated with a first-class degree in oriental studies, followed a year later by a first in mathematics at London University — where he also gained his doctorate.

With the support of Professor Chimen Abramsky, who early recognised his brilliance, Michael became a lecturer in Hebrew and Jewish studies at University College,



Hebraist... Weitzman

London, in 1972, and a reader two years ago. He lectured extensively in London and Jerusalem and was also a consultant etymologist to the Oxford English dictionary, a post that gave him special satisfaction. One of his most notable

collaborations was with his friend, the novelist and writer Chaim Berman. Their joint book on the archaeological enigma at Elba, Syria, was translated into a number of languages, including Hebrew and Japanese.

He was a dedicated, unselfish scholar with a cheerful and benign outlook. Only when he felt that scholarship was misused to promote untenable theories, such as in the case of the so-called "biblical codes", did he use a sharp pen (in the Jewish Chronicle) to castigate the authors and wittily demolish what he considered ridiculous ideas.

Michael was fascinated by the Syriac translation of the Hebrew Bible, known as the Peshitta. He was considered a world expert on the subject but he never ceased delving into its mysteries. Only a few

weeks ago, he invited me to toast with him the completion, after 20 years of labour, of his *The Syriac Version of the Old Testament: an Introduction*, which he hoped to see published shortly as a definitive work on the subject.

For Michael, the Society for Jewish Study, with its learned journal, was a cause also deserving his keen, unstinting loyalty. He was its chairman and occasional lecturer, always drawing admiring audiences.

Michael married Anita Haimon, an Israeli, in 1980. She survives him together with their two children, Gail and Alexander.

Joseph Finklestone

Michael Weitzman, biblical scholar, born July 25, 1944; died March 21, 1998

Letters: Trevor Huddleston

Julius Nyerere, former president of Tanzania, writes: Trevor Huddleston (obituary April 21) never faltered in his commitment to the anti-apartheid struggle; but while serving as Bishop of Masasi in the 1980s he served the people of that somewhat isolated diocese without reservation, clearly seeing the two tasks as one — the development of the human dignity in Africa. The bishop worked with village leaders to establish a Young People's Agricultural Training Centre and village co-operatives as well as giving a lead on the expansion of mission social service activities.

Throughout his service in Tanzania, the bishop also acted — and when he thought it necessary, spoke publicly — as a sympathetic and supportive but still critical friend of the independence government and its leadership. At no time did he compromise on his commitment to human dignity, equality and the right of all to social and economic development.

When living in the UK, Bishop Trevor Huddleston continued to express in work his concern for all the peoples of Africa, although it was still South Africa to which his thoughts returned most often. Thus he became a functioning patron of Tools for Self-Reliance, and president of the chapters of the British Tanzania Society; he took a continuing interest in both until his death.

Simon Funnell writes: I first met Trevor Huddleston as a young child, when, with my mother, he became involved in setting up a centre for children with disabilities now known as the Huddleston Centre, Hackney, an organisation of which he was patron.

He became a personal friend of the family and was fascinating to talk to. I interviewed him for my school magazine and he spent a whole afternoon with me, the perfect host in his small London flat near St James' Piccadilly. There was an endless supply of tea and biscuits, but more important were the anecdotes of his life in Africa, and his passion for South Africa.

Even then he believed that electrifying experience to an end, even when the rest of us found it hard to believe.

I interviewed him again when I was studying radio journalism. Again, he was the congenial host, taking me out to lunch and finding out all about my life, and

the latest news from my family.

Trevor's loyalty, concern and care for his personal friends was exceptional. One of our family's favourite memories of him is when he came to us for Sunday lunch. Halfway through the apple crumble, he casually mentioned that he was meant to be going to a garden party at Buckingham Palace that day, but had decided he would prefer to spend it with us.

Tim Sanders writes: Trevor Huddleston always spoke with clarity and commitment when he addressed anti-apartheid or trade union rallies and conferences — he never indulged in the reminiscence or sentimentality which his audiences would have excused in a campaigner of his age and status.

Just once, after the ANC's election victory in 1994, did anti-apartheid delegates hear him talk about his past. At the time it might have been thought that he was preparing to retire with his memories, having achieved his ambition to outlive the apartheid state. However, it turned out that he was just pausing for a look back before getting on with the work.

Albert Mann writes: I met Trevor when he was Bishop of Stepney and I was training and working for the mentally ill with the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association in the East End. Trevor often came to our meetings, and he gave us all hope for the future.

I met him again later, at Westminster Abbey for the Centenary of Toynebee Hall, my university; he remembered me. He changed my life.

Read Gerry A. Bishton: When Trevor Huddleston came to give the college lecture at West Ham College of Technology in 1965 he chose as his theme The Arusha Declaration, but more importantly, he chatted frantically in Swahili for more than an hour afterwards with some of the college's many African students. For many present, particularly those who rarely heard anybody concerned about their homelands, it was an electrifying experience. He truly had the gift of tongues worth possessing in this century of the Christian era.

There will be a requiem Eucharist for Trevor Huddleston at St James' Piccadilly on Thursday, April 30 at 6.30pm.

## A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: There were patches of ice on Wetherburn Edge and a flurry of hail as we scrambled up, but the clouds were high and the Scafells and half the Lakeland hills were startlingly clear. But not much sunshine. Indeed, for much of the afternoon, the only sunlit fells were Helvellyn and Dollywaggon, with the western slopes showing the only considerable snow on any of the tops. Clearly, there would be much more of it on their shadowed eastern slopes. Wetherburn, "the mountain of a hundred holes", had always been one of our favourite hills when, 22 years ago, I sadly scattered the ashes of my brother near the summit. The place of pilgrimage is a rock corner in a splendid situation with Little Langdale and the Brathay countryside, splashed with many glittering waters, immediately below and, six miles away to the north-west, the ramparts of the Scafells. By the calm this time were a couple with their grandson,

Daniel, aged nine, who had come over Great Carrs and Swirl How with Wetherburn, the lad's first two-thousanders. We wished him a lifetime of mountains. To return we wandered down the south ridge and Lad Stones to the old quarry track, past old copper mine workings, and down the side of Tiberthwaite Gill. The waterfalls on the gill were impressive enough but I remembered a day 50 years ago when two of us, for the adventure, climbed down the ravine, with all the waterfalls, when the gill was in lively spate, coming ashore on a shingle at its foot like a couple of drowned rats. Another memory of Wetherburn, out of scores, is of a snow ascent when we broke through fog on the summit to find the sun shining on a sea of cotton-wool mist covering the whole of Lakeland, and when we turned round, a perfect Broken Spectre, seemingly only yards away, with a rare double "glory".

A Harry Griffin

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

AN EDITING error led to the misspelling of the Catalan for "the day of the book" in an article and headline on Page 11 of our supplement to mark World Book Day, April 23. *Libre* in *El Dia de la Libre* was reduced to *Libre*.

IN OUR obituary of Octavio Paz, Page 18, April 22, it was wrongly stated that Paz's only child's mother was his second wife, Marie-José Tramini. Helena Paz Garro's mother is the poet's first wife, the Mexican writer Elena Garro.

DR RICHARD LAWS, Birthdays, Page 18, April 23, ceased being the Master of St Edmund's College, Cambridge, in 1996. The master is now Professor R Brian Heap, who is also the foreign secretary of the Royal Society and the former director of the Babraham Institute, Cambridge.

IN A FEATURE about waste-

paper bins in Space, a supplement to some southern editions of the Guardian, April 24, we attached some captions to the wrong item. Caption 7 refers to picture 9 (cotton and leather-trimmed bin from The Holding Company); caption 8 refers to picture 7 (recycled leather bin from Ocean); caption 9 refers to picture 8 (crushed-metal bin from Liberty).

AN ARTICLE on Page 8 of earlier editions of the Guardian, April 24, maintained that Swindon "attracted Neolithic settlers 30,000 years ago". That should have been Palaeolithic.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Editor, Ian Myles, by telephoning 0171 233 5589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Fax: 0171 233 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

## Birthdays

Anouk Aimee, actress, 66; Filk Botha, South African ballerina, 68; Darcy Russell, ballerina, 68; Sheena Easton, singer, 38; Michael Fish, weatherman, 64; Jenny Harper, gallery director, 48; Corretta King, civil rights campaigner, 71; Jack Kingston, actor, 77; Kevin McNally, actor, 43; Nicholas Serota, director, Tate Gallery, 52.

## In Memoriam

SMART, Lorna, Died 27 April 1997. Lover of music and cricket, mother of two sons and a daughter. Greatly missed by Marion and Tony.

## Marriages

COOKE / MILLER: Sheila Cooke, daughter of Tony and Eileen Cooke and the late, son of Andrew Miller and Ann Ingram, are pleased to announce their engagement and are looking forward to their wedding on 2nd May 1998 at 11am.

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Monday April 27 1998

# Tomorrow: Asia, the investment aftermath

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

## FinanceGuardian

### Perils of new tech

# BBC seeks to curb Murdoch

## Plea for special OfTel powers

Simon Beavis  
Media Business Editor

**T**HE BBC is putting pressure on the Government to give emergency powers to the telecom watchdog, OfTel, warning that, without them, consumers in the digital age could become hostages to big monopolistic companies.

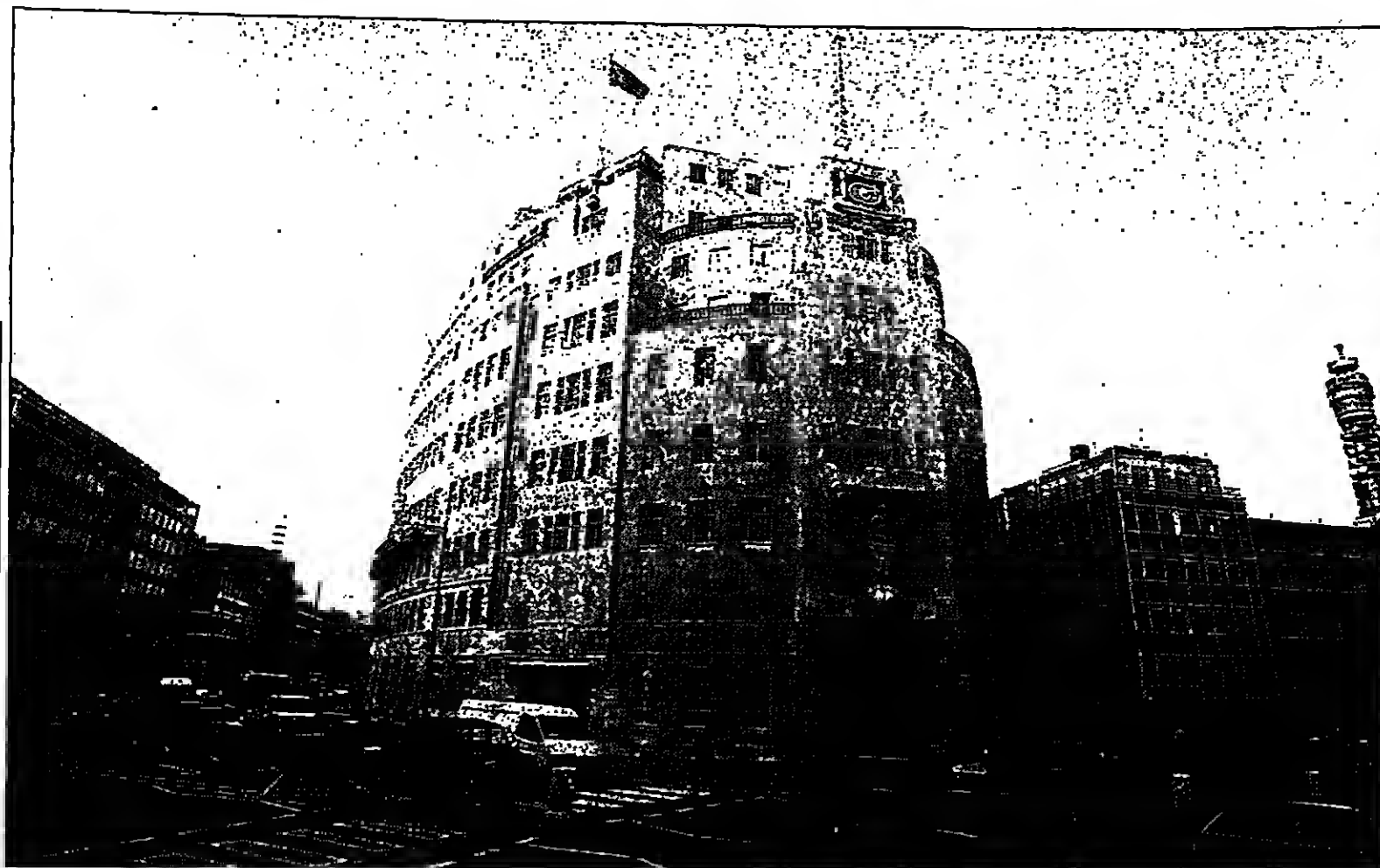
The warning comes as some of the most powerful players in broadcasting and computing, including Rupert Murdoch and Bill Gates, have made it clear they aim to dominate the world of digital technology.

Ministers are being told consumers will be left with a narrow choice of services unless OfTel is given beefed-up powers to safeguard competition. The message is unlikely to be well received by the Government, which intends to move slowly in considering what changes are needed in the regulatory structure.

But Patricia Hodgson, the BBC's director of policy and planning, who is widely regarded as one of the corporation's most acute strategists, will warn today that the Government's approach is too slow.

She will tell an audience of industry executives and policy-makers at the UK Digital TV Launches forum in London that Britain cannot wait for a drawn-out review of the issues by Brussels before taking action. Instead, the Government should use legislation before Parliament to bolster the regulator.

Brussels is consulting on the implications for competition policy from the increasing convergence of broadcast, telecoms and computers. The Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, has said the Govern-



The once monolithic Broadcasting House, original home of the BBC which is now threatened by the monopoly power of private broadcasters

ment will not publish its green paper until the summer, so legislation could be a year or two away.

But Ms Hodgson will tell the conference: "We cannot wait for a full-scale convergence review, already mired in regulatory jostling and Euro-politics. Services are being launched now, this year and next."

She says ministers should use the competition bill and the utilities regulation review to introduce a simple but potent amendment to OfTel's powers, adding: "It needs those powers now, before monopolies are established."

She will argue that OfTel — already responsible for policing access systems such as decoders and programme guides — should also have authority over the software that controls them. The change would

prevent strong companies dictating what equipment consumers should buy and what services they receive. "Britain must ensure OfTel has the powers it needs to keep gateways open for all new digital services," she says.

Her warning comes just over a month before BSkyB launches its first tentative move into digital satellite. This autumn the company, 40 per cent-owned by Mr Murdoch, will launch its big digital push and will see rival digital services launched on terrestrial and cable platforms.

At the same time, software manufacturers and telecoms companies are beginning to drive into the marketplace with rival pc-based digital offerings. British Telecom is already in trials with Microsoft to test Internet services.

## Net junk imperils users' privacy

**D**OOR-to-door salesmen are being replaced by a far more persistent marketing force which has the ability to cross the threshold undetected, writes Chris Barrie.

Junk mail targeted at unsuspecting Net-users is "set to skyrocket", taking a hefty toll on individuals' time and privacy, says a report published today.

Worse, the trend will leave women vulnerable to "cyber-stalking" and children to pornography, as direct e-mail experts sell

their addresses in bulk to anyone who wants them.

The report, sponsored by software firm Novell UK, points out that unwanted e-mails or "spams" already affect many people.

But Dominic Storey, Novell's director of technology, says the numbers will mushroom as digital television and telephone selling introduce many more households to the Net.

Pointing out that, even by visiting a website, users can unknowingly allow that site's operators access to e-

mail addresses, Mr Storey says that there is a burgeoning trade in selling on addresses, which are then used for other companies' sales promotions.

More sinister, e-mail is a conduit for pyramid selling, religious sects' recruitment, computer viruses and sexual harassment.

The report, based on a survey of 800 people at work, suggests that 75 per cent of men and half of women had been "spammed", with three-quarters receiving five or more unwanted messages a day.

Novell argues that most organisations have yet to consider what policies to adopt to protect their staff. Private users, too, are still too free with their e-mail addresses, Mr Storey says.

### Economics Notebook

## Euro undermines our castle walls



Victor Keegan

**A**N ENGLISHMAN'S home is his castle — but it can also be a prison, as thousands of people nursing negative equity will never forget.

Housing can also be a prison for chancellors of the Exchequer, as many know to their cost. The macro-economic policy of the last Conservative government was blown apart by the housing boom of the late eighties, the consequences of which (economic and psychological) are still with us today.

In the late eighties, people cashed in the proceeds of rising house prices to finance a consumer boom — made worse by the then chancellor, Nigel Lawson, cutting taxes as well.

Mr Lawson did not feel any need to apologise for this action. He argued that lower taxes were necessary to boost incentives and that the purchasing power injected into the economy by lower taxes was small compared with that coming from equity withdrawal in the housing market. This is a bit like someone caught pouring oil on a fire justifying it on the grounds that the building is already ablaze.

Mr Lawson also announced the end of the anomaly whereby people living together could claim double tax relief on mortgages — but several months in advance, thereby prompting a boom on top of a boom as couples rushed to take out loans ahead of the deadline.

Housing was a make-or-break part of economic policy in earlier decades. Governments were often judged by how many new houses they built, to stimulate the economy and provide much-needed homes.

Today things have changed. Political parties are falling over themselves to find environmental reasons for not building the millions of new houses that demographers tell us must be ready by early in the next century.

we will eventually get the full monty.

Housing policy will receive two seismic shocks. The first is if we enter — or if our economy is run as though we were in. Interest rates, at present two percentage points above European levels, will come down. This is great news for mortgage holders but a headache for the Chancellor because it could threaten a rerun of the late eighties — with housing money fuelling another consumer boom.

Ireland, which is joining EMU this week, has just announced measures to stem its housing boom but they may be ineffectual in the face of an expected two-point cut in interest rates because of EMU. One earlier measure to stem the boom — an increase in stamp duty — had the opposite effect: it dried up the flow of properties coming on to the market and pushed prices even higher.

The second housing shock that Britain may receive from EMU is a lack of competitiveness induced by lower labour mobility because of our high rate of owner-occupation.

But hang on — isn't owner-occupation a basic freedom, enabling you to do what you like? In theory, yes, but in practice, no. It is not just savers from negative equity who are not mobile. Professor Andrew Oswald of Warwick University argues that high home ownership is a leading cause of Europe's high unemployment.

**C**OUNTRIES with the most unemployment, such as Spain and Finland, have the highest proportion of home-owners, and those with the least joblessness (Switzerland and Holland) have thriving private rental markets. The reason is simple, he says: a high level of privately rented accommodation makes it easier to move to new jobs — a process that is ossified by owner-occupation and council tenancies.

According to Prof Oswald, once you allow for the effects of the cyclical recovery we are now in Britain fits this pattern, because hardly anyone rents privately following the boom in home ownership.

People often forget that high home ownership has little to do with wealth but a lot to do with subsidies. Switzerland, one of the richest countries, has low owner-occupation while some very poor Third World countries have high rates.

Even with the gradual withdrawal of mortgages, home ownership in the UK is pampered (no capital gains tax, no tax on imputed rent, low property taxes and 25-year loans at low interest rates). If one had been able to take out a 25-year loan on the same basis as the mortgage shares, it would have been a far better investment than buying a house.

If Britain's high rate of home ownership were to prevent the sort of labour mobility that monetary union needs to work, premature entry could prove disastrous. It is another reason to wish the EMU ship well when she is launched this week. And another reason to be thankful that we have not booked our tickets yet.

## £480,000 divvy for Co-op boss

Julia Finch

**T**HE man passed over for the top job at the Co-op Wholesale Society was given a £480,000 golden handshake — including a special thank-you payment of some £230,000.

Retail controller John Owen was one of two candidates for the job of CWS chief executive in November 1996 but lost out to Graham Melmoth. Mr Owen agreed to continue working with Mr Melmoth for a few months but then bowed out.

Details of his termination payment, the largest paid by the CWS, are contained in the organisation's annual report and accounts. Mr Owen was entitled to one year's salary, about £250,000, for loss of office, but a CWS spokesman said the additional £230,000 was "in recognition of his 38 years of service".

The CWS, which is owned by retail societies, 120 other co-operatives and half a million individual members, was the target of an audacious £1 billion takeover attempt last April.

Corporate financiers Andrew Regan and David Lyons launched their bid with backing from Japanese bank Nomura, and promised a pay-out to the Co-op's owners. It emerged, however, that confidential Co-op documents had been circulated to groups which might have been potential buyers for parts of the CWS organisation.

The CWS reported profits of £82 million for 1997, up from £58 million a year earlier. The improvement was due to the Co-op Bank and £24 million of property investment gains.

Profits at the CWS's core retail business were down £5 million to £32 million after an extra £5 million to customers through its Dividend loyalty card.

## Embarrassment for SmithKline chief as rival restates merger hopes

# Glaxo returns to the fray

Julia Finch

**S**IGNIS emerged at the weekend that Sir Richard Sykes, chairman of Glaxo Wellcome, has not yet given up hope of merging with rival SmithKline Beecham.

Weeks of claim and counter-claim about who was responsible for the collapse of what would have been the world's biggest corporate merger will come to a head tomorrow, when SmithKline chief Jan Leschly faces shareholders.

In an interview which appears to have been timed to cause maximum embarrassment to Mr Leschly, Sir Richard restated the logic behind the merger. "We had a superb chance to create an organisation that would have been perfectly placed for the next century," he said.

He heaped the blame for missing that chance on Mr Leschly and suggested it could still go ahead if the

SmithKline chief executive were removed.

Hundreds of investors are expected to attend SmithKline's annual meeting at London's Barbican centre and Mr Leschly is likely to be given a rough ride. Apart from questions about why he failed to deliver a deal which he had promised would produce huge benefits, shareholders are expected to protest about his remuneration.

Since the deal collapsed it has emerged that Mr Leschly is sitting on share options worth some £90 million in addition to his £2.4 million annual pay package. The American-style pay deal smashes all previous records. His contract also guarantees two years' money if SmithKline is taken over.

Pensions and investment Research Consultancy, a group that campaigns against excessive remuneration and for high standards of boardroom behaviour, has advised shareholders to protest by abstaining from the vote to re-



Sir Richard Sykes: 'Merger of equals' still on cards

elect Mr Leschly and his deputy, Jean-Pierre Garnier, as directors.

They are encouraging shareholders to take the same action against Baroness Hopper, the non-executive who heads the company's remuneration committee.

In evidence to the Commons select committee on science and technology, Sir Richard said stitching together the top management ranks within the two organisations had proved a problem. He referred to senior managers as "sensitive flowers".

But in an interview with the Sunday Times he reiterated the benefits of bringing the two companies together as "a merger of equals".

Sir Richard said "circumstances would have to change" before any merger could be resurrected, implying that without Mr Leschly the deal could be done. He said he was willing to work alongside Mr Garnier.

To add to Mr Leschly's discomfort, one of Glaxo's non-executive directors in charge of executive pay has attacked the pay and the culture within the company.

Professor Arthur Li said: "It is not the way we think companies should be run." Glaxo, he said, followed the Cadbury code on executive pay and was "mindful of shareholder value".

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## Seagram knocks on EMI's door

### This week

Julia Finch

**E**MI music group's future as an independent company will be in the spotlight again this week as Edgar Bronfman, president of the Canadian drinks and entertainment conglomerate Seagram, arrives in Britain.

Seagram has been mooted as a bidder for months, and Mr Bronfman is expected to have talks with EMI, which has produced a dismal share performance — down from 740p to 489p since its demerger from Thorn some 18 months ago — and issued a profit warning in January.

Elsewhere, shareholders are expected to take their annual opportunity to voice outrage about over-generous executive pay awards.

SmithKline Beecham's directors are likely to be the target of the most vocal criticism. But at Barclays' meeting on Tuesday investors are expected to make their feelings known about the £4 million handed out to Bill Harrison in the form of a golden hello, year's salary and golden good-bye. Mr Harrison, head of the bank's lost-making City offshoot, EZW, was in post for only 14 months before EZW was sold.

Banking stocks are likely to be in the limelight after week-end speculation that further mergers are in the pipeline, in the wake of tie-ups in the US. Reports suggested that the Dutch group ING is eyeing Credit Suisse, and that American Express is in talks with the US insurer AIG.

## Rich man's club makes poor offer

Mark Atkinson  
Economics Correspondent

**W**ESTERN nations are to invite a handful of developing countries to talks aimed at drawing up new rules to govern international investment by multinational companies.

But many see what is being sold as a concession to the third world as a red herring, because the countries likely to join the discussions are unrepresentative of the developing world as a whole.

Negotiations over the Multilateral Agreement on Investment have been restricted to members of the Paris-based Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development — the "rich man's club".

The pact aims to establish rules on foreign investment; signatories to agreements will shed many of their rights to set rules for foreign investors.

The absence of developing nations at the talks has fuelled fears that the rights and interests of third world countries will be overlooked.

The annual OECD ministerial gathering on Tuesday will be told that the negotiating group is considering a proposal that eight non-member countries be made full participants in the discussions.

The potential participants are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Hong Kong and the Slovak Republic, which are already observers at the talks, and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which are about to join in the same capacity.

## BAe to buy £400m stake in Saab

Simon Beavis

**T**HE pace of consolidation in the European defence industry is set to quicken with the news that British Aerospace — one of the most ardent campaigners for convergence — will take a strategic stake in Saab, the Swedish military aircraft manufacturer.

In a move which could come as early as this week, BAe is to announce its decision to spend £400 million on a 30 to 40 per cent stake in Saab, according to defence industry analysts.

The deal will be carried out as part of the public flotation of Saab shares by parent

group investor, which is controlled by the wealthy Wallenberg family. The deal will leave investor in control of the company and BAe as the largest outside shareholder.

BAe has built a lucrative partnership with Saab, first through a manufacturing alliance and, since last year, in a joint-marketing agreement which puts Saab's advanced light fighter, the Gripen, in the same category on the world market as BAe's trainer and fighter aircraft.

BAe refused to comment on the proposed tie-up but observers see it as inevitable that the marketing relationship will develop into a more concrete corporate tie-up.

It is also widely regarded as

a means for BAe to maintain the momentum of consolidation among European defence manufacturers.

Such a deal might help further Sweden's ambition to become involved politically in moves by Britain, France and Germany to restructure the European industry.

Plans to form a private-sector company for the civil aerospace and defence interests of BAe, Aérospatiale and Dassault of France, and DASA of Germany have, however, not become bogged down, not least because much of the French industry remains state-controlled.

● Volkswagen said last night it was preparing to outbid BMW for control of Rolls-

Royce. VW's supervisory board said it had "a tempting offer", which City sources suggested could be as high as £400 million, compared with BMW's £240 million bid.

VW directors spoke of making a new bid after a Rolls-Royce Saab was flown to their headquarters at the weekend. VW is reported to be willing to invest £2 billion in the luxury carmaker — double the amount on offer from BMW — and to want to raise annual production to 10,000 cars, 4,000 more than envisaged by BMW.

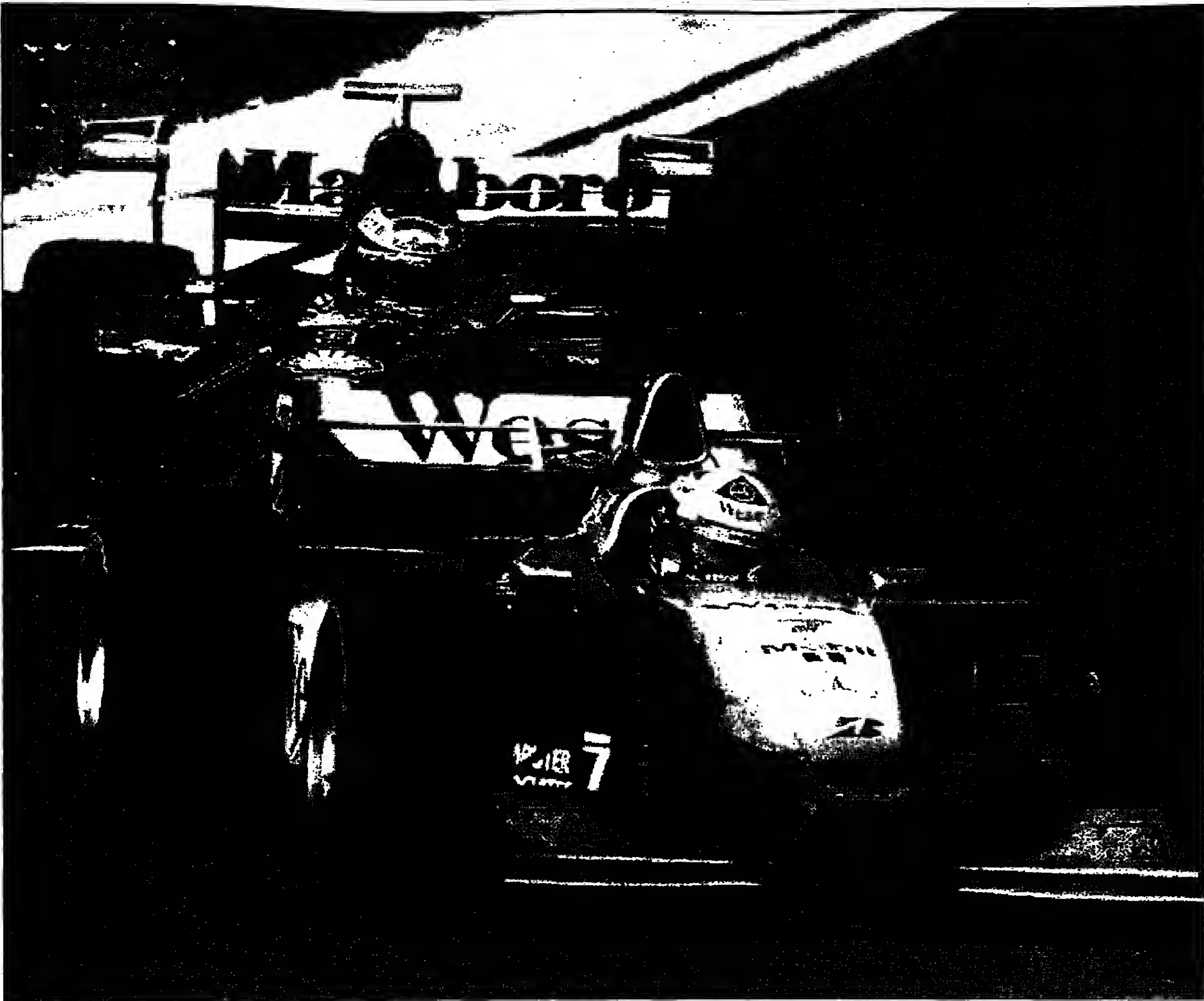
Yesterday, Rolls's chief executive, Graham Morris, said "no reason" why BMW should not conclude a deal with Vickers by Thursday.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS			
Australia 2.48	Germany 2.9195	Malaysia 6.50	Singapore 2.35
Austria 20.51	Greece 510.45	Malta 0.85	South Africa 1.20
Belgium 62.16	Hong Kong 12.55	Netherlands 3.28	Spain 246.39
Canada 2.33	India 65.11	New Zealand 2.90	Sweden 12.61
Cyprus 0.85	Ireland 1.157	Norway 12.13	Switzerland 2.40
Denmark 11.16	Israel 6.22	Portugal 228.13	Turkey 338.570
Finland 8.93	Italy 2.803	Saudi Arabia 8.14	USA 1.6308
France 6.78			

Supplied by NatWest (teaching rates, bank and market)



## San Marino Grand Prix



Pattern of the race... Coulthard's McLaren leads Michael Schumacher's Ferrari through a bend in the early stages of a duel that saw not much extra space between them at the finish

PHOTOGRAPH: LUCA BRUNO

## Coulthard cuts it cool and fine

Alan Henry at Imola on a McLaren win that restored confidence in the Scot and denied the two Ferraris a home celebration

DAVID Coulthard put his spat with Michael Schumacher in the previous race firmly behind him yesterday with a well-judged, tactical victory over the Ferrari team in the San Marino Grand Prix.

The 27-year-old Scot beat Schumacher to the chequered flag by only 4.5sec to deprive a fanatical 100,000-plus crowd of its first home victory since 1983.

With four of the season's 16 races completed, only six points now separate the leader Mika Hakkinen, who failed to finish yesterday, from Coulthard and Schumacher in second and third places.

Coulthard seemed to be taking it too easy, slackening off in the closing stages to conserve his McLaren-Mercedes even as Schumacher was closing on him.

In reality Coulthard's car was suffering from an overheated gearbox, a problem which had indirectly forced his team-mate Hakkinen to retire with a broken transmission when in second place and after only 17 of the race's 62 laps.

McLaren's managing director Ron Dennis periodically left his place on the pit wall to check the electronic telemetry system which was monitoring the problem, advising Coulthard to ease up and change gear as carefully as

possible during the second half of the race.

"I wanted it run at a pace that wasn't too hard on the brakes or the engine, so I was just trying to maintain the gap to Michael," said Coulthard, unaware of the depth of the problem.

"I was perfectly comfortable to let that gap be reduced because I knew that I could have gone a little faster if necessary. I knew Mika had stopped but I didn't ask why because I didn't want to be worrying about it for the rest of the race."

During Saturday's hour-long qualifying session Coulthard worked hard to secure the seventh pole position.

After Hakkinen's retirement Coulthard maintained his lead over Schumacher through his two scheduled refuelling stops, the Ferrari fleetingly closing to within two seconds before making its own second visit to the pits.

Third place fell to Eddie Irvine's Ferrari F400, although the Ulsterman was under constant pressure from Jacques Villeneuve's Williams FW20 and the reigning world champion finished only four seconds behind Schumacher's team-mate.

"At the start Jacques beat me off the line and he was quite quick at first, but then I was able to catch him easily," said Irvine. "Later I thought he might catch me but I knew he would not get past. My big problem again was my back, which goes into spasm after about five laps. It was uncomfortable and distracting."

Villeneuve lost crucial time during his first refuelling stop when the flap concealing the refuelling nozzle did not open automatically as intended, something experienced by many motorists in less frenzied circumstances.

"That probably cost Jacques a place on the podium," said Patrick Head, the Williams technical director. "He also lost more time at his second stop, when we had to cut a pipe to the refuelling nozzle. Some you win, some you lose."

At least Williams had the satisfaction of bringing both their cars home in the points, with Heinz-Harald Frentzen following Villeneuve across the line to claim fifth place ahead of Jean Alesi's Sauber-Ferrari.

Damon Hill had raised hopes in the midfield bunch by qualifying the revised longer-wheelbase car in seventh place but he ran into Alexander Wurz's slow-starting Benetton as the pack accelerated away from the start and had to come in for repairs at the end of the first lap.

Thereafter Hill raced doggedly in the midfield bunch but finally retired with engine trouble when in seventh place only four laps from the end.

Although the Jordan was much more competitive, Hill had hoped that the world championship's return in European tracks would improve his fortunes. Like Johnny Herbert, who again failed to finish after a puncture in his Sauber, he was to be sadly disappointed.

Full results from Imola

1 David Coulthard (GB)  
McLaren-Mercedes Time: 1:34:24.593  
Average speed: 120.624mph

2 Michael Schumacher (Germany)  
Ferrari 4.554 sec behind

3 Eddie Irvine (GB)  
Ferrari +51.776

4 Jacques Villeneuve (Canada)  
Williams-Mecachrome +54.590

5 Heinz-Harald Frentzen (Germany)  
Williams-Mecachrome +1:17.477

6 Jean Alesi (France)  
Sauber-Petronas 1 lap

Also classified

Not classified

Drivers' championship after four rounds

Constructors' championship

Williams have too much strength in depth not to get back to winning ways, but it seems already that any chance Villeneuve had of retaining his title has all but slipped away.

The light at the end of the tunnel for Williams is that new parts are on the way to help reduce the instability that has afflicted their drivers this year, but they will certainly not all be ready in time for Barcelona in a fortnight's time. It is not that you've got to get tough, you've got to get on with the job.

"We'd rather be winning by half a minute," Head said, "but it is enjoyable. And it is very interesting to see how different people in the team react to it. Some are fighters but there are some chaps who bawl, say it's not fair and seem to want a fast track in their mouths. But when things get tough, you've got to fight for it."

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All right, Jacques, it's time to face the facts

James Mitchell on why Williams may have bid arrivederci to their crown already

EXACTLY a year ago, Heinz-Harald Frentzen and Williams were celebrating a victory in the San Marino Grand Prix, another routine win in a long line for the team that throughout the 1990s have become the standard by which all others are judged.

Jacques Villeneuve had retired that day after leading the race, and was already well on the way to winning his first World Championship. Yesterday, on the same Imola circuit, the best Villeneuve could manage was fourth place, with Frentzen behind him in fifth. There can be no better illustration of the problems afflicting the champions.

The atmosphere at Williams over the weekend had not been good but after the race there was a smile on the face of Patrick Head, the team's technical director. Head hates nothing more than underachievement but he accepted, albeit grudgingly, that Williams had done about as well as they could have expected.

Williams's FW20 car has proved to be some way short of the level to which they have become accustomed, but Head is sure that his team made the most of the car here. There was just the small niggle that had it not been for problems with Villeneuve's refuelling hatch, the Canadian might have been able to stay ahead of Eddie Irvine and take the final place on the podium.

Villeneuve gave it a go in the closing laps but Irvine was able to keep him at bay. "We can't complain about the result," Head said. "But to be outpaced by Irvine shows us that the Ferrari is a better car than ours. We've just got to make the car go faster."

That process has already started. Before Imola, Williams ran a private test session which confirmed the suspicion that there is a major problem with the design of the car's rear.

The test paid off in that the engineers discovered what they think will solve it, but the way they did so — by grafting the rear suspension of last year's model on to the new car — indicates the gravity of the situation.

The light at the end of the tunnel for Williams is that new parts are on the way to help reduce the instability that has afflicted their drivers this year, but they will certainly not all be ready in time for Barcelona in a fortnight's time. It is not that you've got to get tough, you've got to get on with the job.

Williams undoubtedly have their backs to the wall but there is something of a Dunkirk spirit about this quintessentially English team. There is a perverse kind of satisfaction about the need to knuckle down and get on with the job.

"We'd rather be winning by half a minute," Head said, "but it is enjoyable. And it is very interesting to see how different people in the team react to it. Some are fighters but there are some chaps who bawl, say it's not fair and seem to want a fast track in their mouths. But when things get tough, you've got to fight for it."

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Bianconi boost for the King

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James Mitchell on why Williams may have bid arrivederci to their crown already

EXACTLY a year ago, Heinz-Harald Frentzen and Williams were celebrating a victory in the San Marino Grand Prix, another routine win in a long line for the team that throughout the 1990s have become the standard by which all others are judged.

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## Tennis

## Apathy as Monégasques is underwhelmed by Moya

Stephen Bierley in Monte Carlo on a painful conclusion to a disappointing tournament

THE temporary grandstands for next month's Formula One Grand Prix are all but complete along the waterfront here and, even as yesterday's Monte Carlo Open final began, the scream of cars was already to be heard from the open windows of the Country Club as many tuned in to Imola.

In truth there was palpable

apathy in the Centre Court air, despite the presence of a Frenchman, Cedric Pioline, as Spain's Carlos Moya took the title in straight sets, 6-3, 6-0, 7-5.

Perhaps languor was the word for it. The last vestiges of romance had disappeared on Friday night when, in the golden light of early evening, Boris Becker had lost to Al-

berto Berasategui. With Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi having departed by midweek, the hope had been that Becker might win his 50th title, and his first on clay, in the principality.

Three times previously the German had reached the final here and there was a huge hope that he would finally pull it off. This was based on little more than nostalgia, for Becker is very much a part-time player these days — as his quarter-final defeat by the Spaniard in three sets amply

demonstrated. This year Berasategui has been the Tour's great party-pooper. At the Australian Open he beat both the local hero Pat Rafter and Agassi. Less phlegmatic might have contemplated a lynching when he defeated Becker.

The little Spaniard with the wholly unorthodox grip had led Pioline 5-6, 6-0, 5-1 in Saturday's semi-final when the Freochman, last year's beaten Wimbledon finalist, staged a remarkable come-

back. It was to cost him dear in the final. Moya, who beat the Dutchman Richard Krajicek on Saturday, met initial resistance yesterday but it quickly became clear Pioline was having problems with his right arm. In the majority of the change-overs the Frenchman sat with an ice-pack perched on his shoulder like Monty Python's Norwegian Blue.

Pioline, though, despite losing nine games in a row, was neither quite deceased nor nailed to his perch. He at-

tempted to hammer through the bars of fatigue with a spirited revival in the third set during which breaks of serve were exchanged with the frequency of a women's match.

But the injury, never specified, prevented Pioline from serving at full pace. As one French observer put it later: "Cedric had a mental problem in his arm."

This was Pioline's 13th career final and the fact that he has won only two of them underlines the problems this gifted player has always had

when it comes to Le Crunch. Moya came to the fore in last year when he defeated Becker in the first round of the Australian Open and then, playing brilliant tennis, went on to reach his first and only Grand Slam final, where he lost to Sampras.

Today the clay-court circuit moves to Munich where Greg Rusedski is seeded No. 1 and Tim Henman No. 4. The ambition of both Britons, though, will be simply to win their opening match. And nobody should put money on it.

Moya... second title

Moya... second title

Moya... second title

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# 14 SPORTS NEWS

The Guardian Monday April 27 1998

## FA Carling Premiership

<b>Aston Villa</b> (1) 1	<b>Barnsley</b> (0) 0
<b>Bolton Wanderers</b> (2) 3	<b>Arsenal</b> (1) 2

<b>Barnsley</b> (0) 0	<b>Blackburn Rovers</b> (0) 0
<b>Wimbledon</b> (0) 0	<b>Chelsea</b> (1) 4
	<b>Liverpool</b> (1) 1

<b>Derby County</b> (0) 0	<b>Everton</b> (0) 1
<b>Leicester City</b> (4) 4	<b>Sheffield Wednesday</b> (2) 3

<b>Leeds United</b> (2) 3	<b>Tottenham Hotspur</b> (1) 2
<b>Coventry City</b> (2) 3	<b>Newcastle United</b> (0) 0

<b>West Ham United</b> (1) 2	<b>Southampton</b> (1) 4
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<b>Arsenal</b> (1) 2	<b>Blackburn Rovers</b> (0) 0
<b>Man Utd</b> (3) 5	<b>Chelsea</b> (1) 4
<b>Liverpool</b> (1) 1	<b>Wimbledon</b> (0) 0
<b>Leeds</b> (2) 3	<b>Tottenham Hotspur</b> (1) 2
<b>Blackburn</b> (0) 0	<b>Newcastle United</b> (0) 0
<b>West Ham</b> (2) 3	<b>Sheff Wed</b> (2) 3
<b>Aston Villa</b> (1) 2	<b>Derby County</b> (0) 0
<b>Leicester</b> (4) 4	<b>Everton</b> (0) 1
<b>Derby</b> (0) 0	<b>Sheff Wednesday</b> (2) 3
<b>Coventry</b> (2) 3	<b>Leeds United</b> (2) 3
<b>Southampton</b> (1) 4	<b>Blackburn Rovers</b> (0) 0
<b>Sheff Wed</b> (2) 3	<b>Wimbledon</b> (0) 0
<b>Wimbledon</b> (0) 0	<b>Newcastle United</b> (0) 0
<b>Newcastle</b> (0) 0	<b>Tottenham Hotspur</b> (1) 2
<b>Everton</b> (0) 1	<b>Blackburn Rovers</b> (0) 0
<b>Bolton</b> (2) 3	<b>Chelsea</b> (1) 4
<b>Barnsley</b> (0) 0	<b>Liverpool</b> (1) 1
<b>C Palace</b> (1) 2	<b>Sheff Wednesday</b> (2) 3

Nationwide League								Nationwide League								Nationwide League							
FIRST DIVISION								SECOND DIVISION								THIRD DIVISION							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notth Forest	45	28	9	8	81	41	93	Black City	45	26	10	8	23	68	57	Blackburn	45	28	12	5	17	41	90
Sheff Wed	45	22	12	11	74	57	87	Sheff Albion	45	22	12	11	74	57	87	Blackburn	45	28	12	5	17	41	90
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<b>North</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Swindon</b>	<b>10</b>
Lewes	16		
Northampton	16		
Roberts	51		
Salisbury	16		
Swindon	16		
Swindon City Marshall, South Foughton, Swindon Town, Swindon & Marlborough, Walsley (Cotter) F.C., Roberts, Fern, Llewellyn Twickenham Town Rugby, Northgate, Swale, Trafalgar Bullock, Marlborough, Tringham, Frazon, Tringham & Co., Cotter, Swindon & Marlborough, Mid-Windsor (S) Sub (not used); McDonald, Ales 12.20, Rals R Hall (Swindon),			
<b>North Kent</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>10</b>
Northfleet	16		
Northfleet & Thurston, Bognor, Hove, Northfleet &			

<b>Marine</b>	<b>Widow</b>	<b>Fishburn, Perth, Robinson</b>	<b>Barrow, Corrie, Connell, Bell, Conzani</b>
<b>Widow</b>	<b>Widow</b>	<b>Widow</b>	<b>Widow</b>
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# Bergkamp sustains title roll

**Martin Thorpe**  
sees Arsenal march  
on the championship  
with misgivings

**W**HEN Dennis Bergkamp's Arsenal started out as the favourite for the Premiership, the club's manager, Arsène Wenger, was seen as a man who had won the championship because this time only the ball had gone on a bender.

Arsène Wenger's clean-up campaign championing pasta instead of Pinot has produced an intoxication of its own. The title is now almost certainly Arsenal's. Regardless of how Manchester United fare at Crystal Palace tonight, victories at home to Derby on Wednesday and Everton on Sunday will be the cue to pop corks in the dressing-room, except for those pledged only to twist screw tops.

But, while Arsenal's recent resurgence has been applauded unconditionally everywhere except Manchester United and Tottenham, Saturday's victory was tinged with regret.

At the end of the game Barnsley fans stood to honour Arsenal with a rousing ovation topped by a chorus of "champions, champions". It takes a lot for a northerner to admit second best to a bunch of flash Harrys from London but the gesture was typical of a club whose friendliness and honesty has won a huge place in the sympathies of most neutrals.

The reality, however, is that Barnsley have probably not won another season in the Premiership as Arsenal's victory all but condemned them to the drop.

Relegation would spark many uncertainties, not least whether Danny Wilson and the team's best players will be persuaded to attempt a second coming next season.

But relegation will also deprive the locals of a key brick in the rebuilding of their self-respect. The flat-cap and ferret population of Barnsley is probably at its smallest ever, yet the stereotype remains. A

successful football team was a way of helping redefine the town's image as well as boosting morale in an area hit by 15 years of government-led industrial decline.

"They have my sympathy," said Wenger. "I started out at a small club and that experience always helped me keep my humility when I moved to bigger ones."

Arsenal and Barnsley share things in common, even if they sit at opposite ends of football's economic scale. Both have been written off this season more times than was sensible. And both, in their own way, needed time to learn about the Premiership before coping with the Premiership exam.

For Barnsley that meant turning round a disastrous first three months, which they did creditably enough, though probably too late to repair the statistical damage already done.

For Arsenal it was really only when Marc Overmars caught on to the pace of the English game and later when Nicolas Anelka's self-confidence triumphed over his teenage nerves that the team began to shake off its past and become "scoring, scoring Arsenal".

Here they should have finished with more than two goals. Overmars wasted a couple of great chances, Patrick Vieira and David Platt went close and Anelka hit the bar.

For all Barnsley's early hard work, Bergkamp trumped it in a split-second flash of genius as he shimmed right and stroked in the opening goal from the edge of the area on 29 minutes. After that the home side were either chasing the game or bawling their heads against the brick wall known as Arsenal's back-line which Wenger argued should play for England en masse.

Arsenal's second goal was set up by Platt for Overmars to sprint at goal and beat Watson. With Ian Wright threatening an end-of-season return, the Gunners are well set for a bubbly finale.

As for Barnsley, they have not given up on their cherished Premiership place just yet. But they will already be thinking of how to drown their sorrows.



On a bender... Dennis Bergkamp curls a shot past Arjan de Zeeuw to give Arsenal the lead at Barnsley. JULIAN HODGSON

Derby County 0 Leicester City 4

## Heskey leads the trouncing of Derby

David Hopps

**P**ERHAPS Derby County were a little confused and feared that "getting into Europe" would mean that they will be paid in Euros and forced to drive on the right. On the evidence of this thumping defeat they have no cause to worry for another year at least.

Derby's manager, Jim Smith, had denounced last weekend's defeat at Crystal Palace as his worst experience in office. After Leicester scored four times in the first 17 minutes yesterday, he was unconvincingly spoilt for choice. "Horrendous," he said. "Nobody seems to want to get into Europe."

Confusion was particularly rife on the left of Derby's defence, where Christian Dailly and Chris Powell had some reintroducing to do. All four goals came from that source.

Derby began with Dailly as the left of three central defenders, with Powell immediately ahead of him in a four-man midfield. As the goals flew in, they half-heartedly switched for the rest of the half to four at the back, although that owed less to orders from the bench than shell-shock.

By the standards of their first-half defending, Derby achieved a minor success for Leicester's first goal in the second minute — a partially cleared corner. Rob Savage swung over another cross and Emile Heskey's robust header from six yards beat Mart Poom.

Leicester added a second 16 seconds later as Heskey embarked upon a brawny run down the right. It was one of those traditional Sunday afternoon runs, with

not a soul in sight. Heskey might have shot but he crossed to the far post, where Muzzy Izet had outpaced his markers to head in.

Heskey's Premiership goals tally — seven at kick-off — hardly endorsed talk of him as a future England international but he looked devastating enough yesterday. By the ninth minute he had scored his second, outjumping Dailly to flick Steve Guppy's in-swinging corner past a statue Poom.

Poom was also motionless for the fourth — his digestive system apart, perhaps. Ian Marshall's slouching challenge for Savage's cross did not amount to much but by now the ball knew the way and trundled into the corner. Poom was so disoriented that the first cross he caught, he promptly flung out of play.

Heskey should have had a hat-trick by half-time, shooting wide as Marshall was allowed to walk back from an offside position. Bolchini was booted by his own fans, who perceived a lack of resolve, and Derby's first notable tackle was a crude one by Dean Sturridge, on the ebullient Guppy, which earned a booking.

Sturridge, at least, was trying to summon a response. He almost scored in first-half injury time, Kasey Keller saving alertly to his right, and then struck the bar shortly before the hour after Paulo Wanchope had headed down.

Leicester, bolstered by their most comprehensive victory since returning to the Premiership two years ago, sneaked above Derby in the table. They, at least, remain keen for Europe. As their manager Martin O'Neill said: "We're up for it and we've given ourselves a chance."

## Chelsea warned over 'weak' link

Ian Ross

**E**VERTON yesterday urged the footballing authorities to ensure that Chelsea do not field a makeshift team in their final Premiership game of the season against Bolton.

The Chelsea chairman Ken Bates has suggested their line-up for the game on Sunday week could be deliberately weakened to safeguard the fitness of key players prior to the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup 72 hours later against Stuttgart in Stockholm.

Manchester United's defender, misses tonight's away visit to Crystal Palace after Norway's national squad doctor Trygve Kase carried out a minor knee operation in a bid to start-up Johnsen will be out for three weeks but could still figure in Norway's World Cup plans.

club deliberately sending out a weakened side for a game of such obvious significance," said the Everton secretary Michael Dunford. "I would expect the FA Premier League to remind Chelsea — to remind all clubs, in fact — that they must play their strongest side at all times."

"I can sympathise with Chelsea but what would they think if they were in our position? This doesn't just affect us at Everton; several other clubs are still in trouble near the foot of the table."

Johnsen, Manchester United's defender, misses tonight's away visit to Crystal Palace after Norway's national squad doctor Trygve Kase carried out a minor knee operation in a bid to start-up Johnsen will be out for three weeks but could still figure in Norway's World Cup plans.

Chelsea 4 Liverpool 1

## Liverpool take a lesson in commitment

Russell Thomas

**"W**E WON'T let you down," Gianluca Vialli promised in his match programme notes. The Chelsea supporters saw their team, purposefully and pleasingly, fulfil the manager's words. But Liverpool performed as if the Premiership was a low priority.

Vialli's eyes reflected immense satisfaction; Roy Evans's blazed with anger. Liverpool's manager again spoke with honesty, and in this case he admitted that his condemnation of a team "without enough guts" who "threw the towel in" im-

perils not only certain players' Anfield futures but his own.

Rotation has been the theme of Rudd Gullit's Chelsea and now Vialli's. Evans may be tempted to rip up his team-sheet and start again. It proved a good match for the suspended Michael Owen and injured Jamie Redknapp to miss because the manager's inactivity was not aimed merely at woe-defending. "I'll get different players in if I have to. I won't accept that."

With what Evans described as a "capitalism" after Chelsea's second goal, Liverpool conceded four for the first time this season. But they have been breached in their past dozen games. "I accept all that

criticism," said Evans. "It's my responsibility to expect some of them to take them."

Liverpool need another win to guarantee a place in the UEFA Cup so there is no excuse for end-of-term laxity. They are free of the distractions of the Champions League from the Premiership, notably Stockport in 16 days time. Yet with this win Vialli's team levered Liverpool out of third place.

Chelsea have reached this season's heights with and without Gianfranco Zola. Here he departed after 31 minutes with a strained groin. Little is going right for last year's Footballer of the Year. Marginalised by Italy for France this summer, he may be on the

Chelsea fringe in the Cup Winners' Cup final on May 12.

Vialli must be tempted to go with Tore Andre Flo, who took opportunities splendidly as Zola's replacement, scoring Chelsea's third after his nimble footwork set up his cleverly placed shot. Liverpool's defenders looked uneasy both in the air and on the ground whenever the tall Norwegian menaced them.

Flo has now overtaken Vialli as Chelsea's leading Premiership scorer but, given that he has scored his goals by his head, he is not a threat to the Italian reserves the right to field himself in Stockholm.

Mark Hughes, yet to start in Europe this season, produced

another spectacular goal, a sidekick kick from 10 yards, to add to his nearly imperious header. On both occasions Liverpool's defence was hopelessly stretched by crosses. And the defence parted again as Frank Leboeuf's cross and Flo's touch left the 34-year-old defender Steve Clarke unattended to drive home his first goal for six years.

Liverpool's goal, tapped in by Karlheinz Riedle after Danny Murphy's shot was parried, had levelled the scores but distorted the first-half picture. Steve McManaman left shaking his head after what will surely be one of his last Liverpool games. His new contract remains unsigned.

Blackburn Rovers 0 Wimbledon 0

## Wilting of Flowers in the cold as Filan feels the heat

Derek Potter

**A**NATOMY seems to have replaced faith healing as the buzz topic among the football aficionados who like to talk to cosy riddles.

Glenn Hoddie was said to be well pleased by the success of his team after the success against Portlough at Wembley last Wednesday. The England coach may well have a problem in the sacred region thanks to the ability and ambition of John Filan, born in Sydney 22 years ago.

Though Tim Flowers, one of England's goalkeepers, was a substitute and presumably fit after his shoulder injury, Filan played for the first time since he broke his arm in the 7-2 victory against Sheffield Wednesday last August.

Then Blackburn were performing like runaway champions and Filan might, who knows, have replaced Flowers for good. As it is, Filan expects to stay in the team as Blackburn approach their final three matches hoping to paper over a disastrous sequence of only seven points from the last 33.

Roy Hodgson, their manager, does not envisage a no-play-no-selection problem for Hoddie, who has already had a tiff with his striker Chris Sutton. "No one will convince me that you need to see him play in a situation like this and I was an international team manager," Hodgson, formerly in charge of Switzerland, said. "If Tim isn't in the team, he is not going to forget how to play, is he?"

That is Hoddie's headache. Hodgson has one after a disappointing performance against the ever-resilient Wimbledon. By all accounts he has £25 million at his disposal: now he must decide how to spend it.

Repeatedly buffeted by the opposition, Filan survived an uncomfortable match on both a personal and collective level, with Blackburn sorely missing the influence and experience of four regular players. Wimbledon still survived, this being their fifth clean sheet in six games and 12th draw all told. They, too, have had a pile of injuries. "We had to work hard for a point," said their manager, Joe Kinnear. They always do.

Jason Euell and Carl Cort caused Filan and Blackburn problems and should have scored. Sutton or his sidekick Kevin Gallacher probably would have scored, had they been presented with the type of chances Wimbledon wasted.

Though it was a dismal match, Sutton clearly retains his appetite. It is easy to overlook his powerful liaison with Alan Shearer when they shared 49 of the 80 goals Blackburn scored in nicking the title from Manchester United three years ago.

It was never going to be Blackburn's day and, if the treatment meted out to Filan, the disappointed Hodgson, he was no less unhappy when a "goal" by Tim Sherwood, who narrowly missed with a more spectacular shot, was disallowed. Any kind of goal would have helped.

Aston Villa 1 Bolton Wanderers 3

## Lifeline blunders

Mark Redding

**T**HE Inter-Toto Cup it is then. Two games left, the last at home to Arsenal, and Aston Villa hopes of a UEFA Cup place look thinner than an anorectic stick insect in a sauna.

Alan Hansen called this defeat by struggling Bolton Wanderers "one of the results of the season" on Match of the Day and few would argue with him. But it took an impressive amount of collusion from the home side to present Bolton with their first league victory at Villa Park since 1955.

The Oceania Footballer of the Year, Mark Bosnich, was the highest culprit. On Saturday he would have struggled to win the vote as No. 1 in Puddletown. "Bosnich is the first to fault himself and he accepted the responsibility for the first two goals," said his manager John Gregory gravely.

If the age-old gauge of a goalkeeper is to see how he reacts to a challenge, then Bosnich failed the test impressively. Bolton's first shot came in the 18th minute but Bosnich got down too late to stop an opportunist swipe from the Villa old boy Neil Cox squeezing in. He was beaten again on his near post at the psychologically important moment just before half-time, when his dive towards Bob Taylor's well-struck shot was even tardier.

As Dwight Yorke — who in midweek had been priced at £16 million by his manager to show that Gregory can at least do his eight times table — had just presented the 31-year-old striker with the ball, the goalkeeper was not entirely culpable. It was yet another symptom of Villa's lackadaisical approach.

The hosts at least began the second half with purpose. Ian Taylor pulling a goal back in the 67th minute. But even the introduction of Stan Collymore, who had missed seven games with a groin injury, could not save them, and in the 84th minute Nathan Blake's header sealed the outcome. "The result was a kick in the pants," said Gregory, who had presided over seven wins out of eight in the league going into this game.

The Trotters moved up a place to third from bottom and have Crystal Palace at home and Chelsea away in which to save their bacon. "When we get a good result we always look to Tottenham and Everton because they are the closest to us and Everton losing was a big boost," said the Welsh striker Blake.

"We had to go for a win today but we're not going to get carried away," Blake emphasised. "No matter what anyone else does, we've got to try and win the last two games." Villa have made sure their Inter-Toto application is already in the post.

Everton 1 Sheffield Wednesday 3

## Kendall looks for self-help as the trapdoor opens up

Jon Brodtkin

**J**OHN SPENCER will probably not be the only person to feel a little bit of a trapdoor Park when Coventry City visit on the season's final day. Everton travel to Arsenal on Sunday and, given that Bolton are at home to Crystal Palace the previous afternoon, look like to go into their last match in the bottom three.

Howard Kendall's assessment of this defeat as a "disappointing result" was akin to saying it was "quite difficult" to buy World Cup tickets last week. The despair on the faces of the fans who lingered long after the final whistle suggested that the church on Goodison Road will enjoy an above-average attendance before the Coventry game on Sunday week.

Unfortunately for Everton, whereas Jesus saves, Thomas Myhr was too easily beaten on Saturday. A goal inside six minutes by Mark Farnbridge shattered their confidence and the home side rarely looked likely to win.

If, as the Everton manager hinted afterwards, his players have assumed they are too good to go down, the seriousness of the situation must at last have sunk in. "It's important we realise how vital these games are," said Kendall, who should hardly need Atilio Lombardo's interpreter to put that message across. "We can't expect other clubs to do us favours."

Uppermost in his mind must be Chelsea, Bolton's final opponents at Stamford Bridge. It remains to be seen whether they will be down — and out — on May 10.

That match comes only three days before Gianluca Vialli's team play in the Cup Winners' Cup final, and their minds and more accomplished players may be elsewhere.

Much the same could be said of Everton during a first half in which they allowed Penrith to add to his early header from Paolo Di Canio's cross with a deflected shot after a poor clearance by Steven Bile.

Sadly for Kendall, just as there is no substitute for class, he had no class on the substitutes' bench. He sent on two wingers, Peter Beagrie and John Ooster, but what he needed most was a Di Canio. The Italian, whose white boots in combination with the fluorescent yellow ball gave the impression he was playing through a personal snowstorm, was in bewitching form.

Where Everton offered little more than graft, he provided the craft to secure Wednesday's place in the Premiership next season. Fittingly, after Duncan Ferguson had given Everton hope with 72nd-minute header and Wednesday's Andy Booth had been sent off for a second bookable offence, Di Canio sealed the match with a fine solo goal.

Scottish round-up

## Cards at dug-outs as the tension tells

Patrick Glenn

**T**HE end-of-season agitation that has afflicted the top and the bottom ends of the Premier Division seems likely to produce a heavy workload for the Scottish Football Association disciplinary committee.

At Parkhead, where Celtic faltered with a 0-0 draw against Hibernian, the Edinburgh side's manager Alex McLeish and the Parkhead club's assistant Murdo MacLeod were ushered to stand by the match referee George Simpson after a verbal collision on the touchline.

At Tynecastle Rangers inflamed the home crowd by beating Hearts 3-0 and reviving the hopes of a 10th successive title. One line-man was the target for an empty whisky bottle and the other was spat at.

At Rugby Park Bobby Williamson and Alex Miller, managers respectively of Kilmarnock, chasing a UEFA Cup place, and relegation-threatened Aberdeen, were also shown red cards after a touch-line spat. The prospect of fines and suspensions being imposed seems much more certain than the outcome of the title race.

Celtic remain odds-on favourites but their one-point lead over their fiercest rivals will be a two-point deficit if Rangers beat visiting Kilmarnock on Saturday. Celtic do

not play Dunfermline until Sunday, when they will be under severe pressure if they have to win to restore their advantage.

In the last few weeks they have regularly demonstrated a potentially fatal lack of conviction. At home to Hibs, the bottom side, they were once again so tentative that few scoring opportunities were created. Wim Jansen, the head coach, hoped that some of the tiredness his players showed would be shrugged off during the coming few weeks.

Rangers, who appeared to have ended their own chances with defeat at Pittodrie six days earlier, came back to punish a lethargic Hearts with two goals from Rino Gattuso and one from Jorg Albertz. "We've managed to put a little more pressure on Celtic," said their manager Walter Smith, "but it is still in their hands."

Celtic's best news came from Fir Park, where Dunfermline beat Motherwell 3-1 to secure their Premier Division survival. It means the Fife side have little incentive when they entertain Celtic — except, of course, beating the potential champions.

"But we have to do it for ourselves," said Jansen. "It was obvious from the first minute against Hibs that we were not as sharp as normal. At this moment we know that winning our last two games will bring us the league. It is in our own hands."



In the 5-page sports section



## Gun happy

Arsenal draw  
ever closer  
to the title

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Motor Racing 12

## The London Marathon

# McKiernan lives up to the hype

## McColgan propels rival to victory

**E**VEN with thousands of dollars in prize-money on the line there was no doubt in the London Marathon yesterday that the Olympian ideal lives on as Ireland's Catherine McKiernan and Spain's Abel Anton secured dramatic victories. Both were first to break the tape down The Mall in their respective races but only after receiving important advice from their chief rivals.

McKiernan admitted she was panicking slightly as Mexico's Adriana Fernandez and Romania's Lidia Simon stretched their early lead to 56 seconds at 16 miles. "I told Catherine not to let the gap between her and Simon grow too much because she's a class athlete," said Liz McColgan, who finished second.

Anton, meanwhile, was running together with Portugal's Antonio Pinto to try to catch Morocco's Abdelkader El Mouaziz in the last three miles when the defending champion told him to work alone. "I wasn't feeling good, so I told Abel to go ahead," Pinto said.

McColgan's advice sent McKiernan into overdrive as she picked up the pace so dramatically she easily turned the huge deficit into a 28-second victory over the Scot in 2hr 26min 26sec. McColgan, runner-up for the second consecutive year, missed her personal best by two seconds with her 2:26:54.

McKiernan, 28, finished in a mess after suffering gastric problems from 15 miles onwards.

The Irishwoman was so embarrassed by her dilapidated state that she did not follow the blue line on the road denoting the shortest route because she wanted to avoid the television cameras. "The legs were all right but the stomach was rattling," she said.

Such incidents are not unprecedented among London Marathon winners. Steve



Both champions, the Irishwoman and Spain's Abel Anton (left), used the prompting of rivals to time their runs to perfection. **Duncan Mackay reports**

Jones suffered similar problems in 1985 when he had to answer the call of nature at 23 miles but still set a course record. Joe Doonan, McKiernan's coach, praised his athlete's courage. "It's a measure of the kid she had to live through that and still win," he said.

McKiernan was relieved to claim the victory for other reasons. Since becoming the fastest debutante over the classic 26.2-mile distance with her 2:23:44 victory in Berlin last autumn she has had to live with huge expectations.

"There's been a lot of hype," she said. "All the bus shelters in Ireland have had pictures of me advertising this race and there's been a lot in the Irish press."

Hopes that McKiernan

might challenge the Kenyan Tegla Loroupe's week-old world record of 2:20:47 ended within the opening two miles when she did not follow the pacemakers as they pulled away, dragging Fernandez with them. But, having struck out on her own for the last 10 miles, McKiernan showed world record potential. Running on her toes like a track athlete, she passed Fernandez and Simon in the 21st mile after completing a 5.16 mile.

McColgan, too, battled stomach problems which prevented her joining the chase with McKiernan. But she rallied in the closing stages to pass Fernandez and Simon and gain revenge over Joyce Chepchumba, the Kenyan who pipped her last year.

"I wish I had gone earlier

because I was concentrating too much on my stomach," McColgan said. "I'm disappointed I left it so late."

The co-operation between Pinto and Anton, the world champion, was all the more surprising because last week the Portuguese had cast doubts over the huge strides made by Spain's marathon runners. He accused them of using EPO, the banned drug which stimulates red blood cells and increases endurance. Those suspicions will not have been allayed by yesterday's event as Spanish runners filled three of the first seven places.

After Fabian Roocroft's win in Rotterdam seven days earlier, Anton became the second Spaniard within a week to claim victory in one of the world's classic races. El Mouaziz seemed to have opened an unassailable lead when he upped the pace at 20 miles. He was still 15 seconds ahead with a mile to go but was powerless to respond as Anton found an extra gear to cruise past him in the final 800 metres to claim the \$55,000 (£33,742) first prize — the same as the women's winner.

Anton, 35, would have collected another \$25,000 had he not spent the last 200 metres waving to the crowd. By the time he realised he was on target for Pinto's year-old course record of 2:07:55 it was too late and he missed it by two seconds. It was still more than a minute faster than his best. "The most important thing was to win," Anton said. "I didn't think about the money. But maybe now..."

Mouaziz finished second in 2:08:07 with Pinto six seconds behind. For most of the race, Britain's Jon Brown looked capable of living up to his tag of dark horse. "I was all right until the race started at 20 miles," said the Sheffield runner after finishing eighth in 2:11:10. He fared better than Paul Evans, Britain's other main hope, who dropped out at 18 miles.

# No cramping Steve Cram's style

**Paul Weaver finds a former world-record holder mobile enough to 'beat' a former foe**

**S**TEVE CRAM's features glimmered with a combination of perspiration and the merciful light rain which fell like a sprinkling of holy water during the race. But the agony had gone and he wore a weary smile like a medal. He had just run the classic 26.2 for the first time.

He had done more than that, in fact. Despite a lack of preparation he had lashed in 17th place with a time of 2hr 38min 13sec. A classy club runner would have been proud of that. And there had been only one moment of anxiety. "Someone, I might have been confused, shouted 'Come on, Seb' and I looked behind me. Then I realised Seb wasn't running."

Cram, 37, one of Britain's greatest middle-distance runners and the former mile and 1500m world record holder, took some satisfaction in beating Coo's time of 2hr 38min a few years ago.

"I was aiming for 2:45, so I'm well happy with this, especially as I was doing some race commentary for Eurosport on my mobile phone at the same time. I had joined up with a couple of other runners and we helped each other along, although they gave me some stick for my broadcasting."

"They frightened me when they said they had been doing 80 or 90 miles a week in training. I've only managed between 20 and 40 because I've been so busy



Cram... all smiles

with Channel 4's Planet Football and, although I did 17 six-minute miles on Monday, I had a bit of groin afterwards and did not run again last week. But today

it was only really hard work over the last couple of miles.

"It was a fantastic experience. I even got carried away and thought I was an athlete again. But then a few old injuries came back to haunt me and I remembered that I was retired."

"I'd often watched the race and wondered what it would be like to compete in, although I put it off and off. There was nowhere where there wasn't a big crowd cheering us on."

"My real aim was to raise some money for Macmillan Cancer Relief and the Northumberland Youth Foundation — and to try and avoid being overtaken by Mickey Mouse down The Mall. And I didn't want to have to ring my wife Karen and ask her to pick me up at the 20 miles stage."

Cram has fitted in training during his busy work

schedule, squeezing in runs in Argentina, Italy and Japan, and on Saturday he broke off his preparations to fly north to watch his beloved Snuderland play Stoke City. "I'd like to do this again, but not soon."

He had not run beyond the half-marathon distance. His first sense of elation yesterday was when he broke 11 minutes for the first mile — that was how long it took him when he was held up by other competitors during a previous road race.

To watch the London Marathon is to feel a mixture of joy and guilt. We can all do it in three hours. Or four. Five if things get sticky. Six at the outside. While the elite are admired, the ordinary can be envious; if all the runners were glorious winners some spectators can feel like losers.

## Calzaghe stops Gimenez in his tracks

John Rawling

**J**OE CALZAGHE became the first man to stop Juan Carlos Gimenez when the 37-year-old Paraguayan challenger retired after nine depressing one-sided rounds for the World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title in Cardiff on Saturday.

Gimenez, who had soaked up the Welshman's heaviest body shots, was taken to hospital and found to have four cracked ribs. The injuries may have occurred as early as the second round and partially excused his woefully inadequate challenge.

tober, but if Gimenez was truly the No. 1 challenger it is a sad indictment of the rest of the division.

Yes, the 26-year-old Calzaghe is a fighter of natural talent who punches heavily and moves impressively. But from the moment he connected with his first right jab the fight lacked any genuine competitive edge.

Gimenez, a veteran of 59 previous professional contests, painfully learned that his skills belong to another era. His cornermen wore the name "Toro" across their shirts but in truth their old bull looked destined for the knacker's yard as Calzaghe won all nine completed rounds.

has been boxing since 1982 and had never been stopped before. Duran, Eubank and Benn couldn't do it, but I did."

His promoter Frank Warren now plans to steer Calzaghe towards a unification contest in July, with the International Boxing Federation's champion Charles Brewer the most likely opponent. Brewer recently beat Herol Graham in a title fight in Atlantic City but showed frailties which Calzaghe can ruthlessly expose.

A makeshift open-air arena in the picturesque grounds of Cardiff Castle is planned as the venue for this fight, after which Calzaghe is pencilled in to make his United States debut in October.

"Joe is an exciting fighter and ultimately my aim is to see him fight Richie Woodhall



Jaw of iron... Gimenez retires

in an open-air event next spring," said Warren. "I believe the best two super-middleweights in the world are on this side of the pond, and a fight between them would set

them up for life. It would be huge."

Woodhall, training to defend his World Boxing Council title against Italy's former holder Vincenzo Nardiello in June, said: "Joe is strong and fast and says he is the best, but we'll see about that when he faces me. I've got as good a jab as anybody and he'll find things are very different then."

## Injuries throw England tour into disarray

Robert Armstrong

**A** SIMMERING row involving England, New Zealand and Australia is set to explode when England's rugby union coach Clive Woodward announces his squad this week for the summer tour of the southern hemisphere.

The Antipodean super powers believe they are going to be short-changed by the Rugby Football Union, which is virtually certain to send out a seriously depleted squad for the Test series instead of the full-strength contingent promised.

Last night the England captain Lawrence Dallaglio hinted that he would be unable to play in games against the All Blacks, Australia and the world champions South Africa.

After Waaps' win over Northampton Dallaglio said: "I have a shoulder injury and I have been told on strong medical advice that if I carry on playing it could become chronic and need surgery."

"If you play when you're not fully fit you can pick up secondary injuries. It is a hugely significant four but England have got some phenomenal talent coming through who would be dying to play for their country."

It is a challenge I would reluctantly give up but my performance has been deteriorating at a rate of knots this season.

"I've made myself available but I've also made Clive Woodward aware of the situation and I expect a three-way decision to be made between myself, Clive and the club."

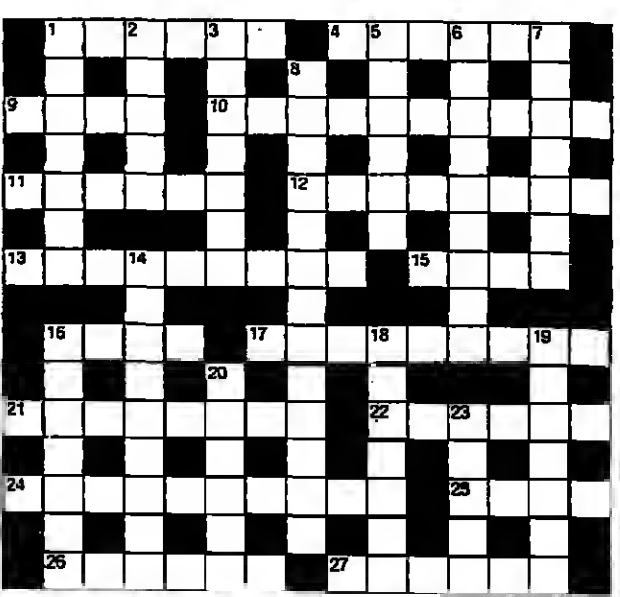
England's forwards coach John Mitchell has threatened to pull out of the tour if all the leading players are not included in the touring party. The former All Black warned that the tour could rapidly turn into "a disaster" should Woodward fail to assemble a genuine Test squad with strength in depth.

Champion first lady... Irish runner Catherine McKiernan fulfils great expectations as she breaks the tape in The Mall to win the London Marathon. She won her race in a time of 2hr 26min 26sec and cashed in on the streets of victory as she romped home

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

## Guardian Crossword No 21,259

Set by Rufus



- Across**
- Lower or upper garment (6)
  - Tearaway's daylight robbery (3,3)
  - Picture held firm in frame (4)
  - Number given bill for sleeping accommodation (4-6)
  - He shoots out from hiding (6)
  - Sets aside Tom's battlescars? (8)
  - Cackling assistant to a huntsman (7-2)
  - Returned to receive the king — a terrible person (4)
  - See the key goes to the agent (4)
  - Arrest in case is not ordered (6)
  - Fly doctors to South American capital (5)
  - In depression, find somewhere to drink (5)
- Down**
- Hair dressers? (10)
  - Give a signal and slow down (4)
  - Undertake challenge (4,2)
  - Shutter usually closed at night (5)
- Solution tomorrow**
- 22 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 336 238. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by ATS.



Tuesday April 28 1998

The year on  
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# Cancer

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## Scientists fores

## preventative pi

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Cancer is the one of the most common causes of death in the world. It is a disease that can be prevented by taking certain steps. Scientists are now working on ways to prevent cancer by using genetic engineering.

The latest discovery is that certain genes can be used to prevent cancer. Scientists have found that certain genes can be used to prevent cancer by taking certain steps.

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